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India to host U.S. chief negotiator today

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A SPOT IN THE CANDIDATES

Vaishali retains title at FIDE Grand Swiss

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Congress, RJD are protecting infiltrators, PM says in Bihar

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here on Monday said that "every infiltrator" would have to exit the country as people in Bihar, West Bengal, and Assam were "worried about the safety and security of their sisters and daughters".

He was addressing a public meeting in Purnea district in the Seemanchal region of Bihar, where alleged infiltration from Bangladesh has been a major issue and there is a sizeable Muslim population.

"I want to tell this today from the land of Purnea that every infiltrator has to go, but they [the Congress and the Rashtriya Janata Dal] have been the protectors of them for long; but to get them out [of the country] is the responsibility of the NDA," he said. "In India, only the law of the land will prevail... the people of Bihar, Bengal, Assam are worried about the security and safety of their sisters, daughters... The leaders who protect the infiltrators should listen loud and clear that we will continue to send them out. We have announced the formation of a demographic commission."

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

SC stays 'arbitrary' Waqf changes, but upholds Act

Court says judgment based on only a *prima facie* consideration of the 2025 law, its observations will not prevent parties from making future submissions about the validity of provisions in the Act

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday struck a balance by staying crucial portions of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, which it found "*prima facie* arbitrary" while refusing to freeze the law in its entirety.

In a judgment on a plea for a interim stay of the law, a Bench of Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai and Justice A.G. Masih reasoned that parliamentary legislation was naturally presumed to be constitutional as the lawmakers would only have the public's best interests in mind, so much so that even discrimination woven into the statute would be based on adequate grounds.

However, this reasoning did not stop the court from staying key provisions of the 2025 Act, including the one which required a person intending to create a Waqf to prove that he had been practising Islam for five years.

The court clarified that the judgment was based on a *prima facie* consideration of the 2025 law.

The observations in the judgment would not prevent parties from making future submissions about the validity of provisions in the Act.

The court said there was nothing wrong in requiring a person to prove that he had been practising the faith for at least five years, considering that Waqf endowments were misused as a "clever device to tie up property in order to defeat creditors and generally to evade the law under the cloak of a plausible dedication to the Almighty".

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Yes and no | A look at some of the key features of the Supreme Court ruling on the Waqf (Amendment) Act

- **'Prima facie arbitrary':** The lack of a basic mechanism to ascertain whether the person has been practising Islam for at least five years, which is requirement to create a waqf
- **'Totally unconstitutional':** Section 3C proviso that a Waqf loses its character immediately upon doubt of being government property, before inquiry completion; allowing the designated officer and State government to unilaterally alter revenue and Waqf Board records, respectively, changing the status of a Waqf property into a government property
- **'Mandatory registration':** The court rejected arguments against the mandatory registration of Waqfs prospectively
- **'Protected monument' status:** The argument that Waqf property loses its status if notified as a 'protected monument' was termed a 'fallacy'
- **Tribal community donations:** It addressed concerns about restricting tribal Muslims from donating land as Waqfs, over the potential threat to cultural minorities

Govt., Opposition welcome order

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on Monday welcomed the Supreme Court's judgment on the Waqf (Amendment) Act 2025.

"I believe that whatever the apex court has ruled is a very good sign for our democracy," he said. Mr. Rijiju, however, added that all the provisions included in the Act were beneficial to the Muslim community.

The Opposition claimed victory over the order, and said that it was a vindication of its stand on a law that was "blatantly unconstitutional" and designed to target a particular community. Had the government paid heed to the Opposition's views, the leaders said, they would have been spared this embarrassment.

FULL REPORTS ON » PAGE 11

Amid an export surge, trade deficit comes down by 54%

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's trade deficit contracted by more than 54% to $9.9 billion in August, driven by a surge in merchandise exports, a continued strong performance in services exports, and a significant reduction in merchandise imports.

The trade deficit stood at $21.7 billion in August last year. The data released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry showed that exports to the U.S. increased to about $6.86 billion in August 2025, from $6.7 billion in August last year. This is despite the 25% tariffs imposed on Indian exports to the U.S. for most of that month, and 50% for a few days at the month-end.

"Despite the global uncertainties and the trade policy uncertainties, India's exporters have done extremely well," Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said at a press meet. "It shows that the policies of the Government of India have paid off well."

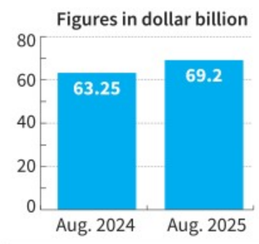
India's total exports increased to $69.2 billion in August 2025, up 9.3% over its level in August last year. Within this, merchandise exports increased to $35.1 billion in August 2025, compared with $32.9 billion in August last year, a growth of 6.7%. Services exports increased to $34.1 billion in August 2025, compared with $30.4 billion in August last year.

On the import side, India's total imports fell to $79 billion in August 2025, compared with $85 billion in August last year, a contraction of 7%. This was driven by a 10.1% contraction in merchandise imports to $61.6 billion.

Services imports increased marginally to $17.45 billion in August 2025 from $16.5 billion in August last year. The relatively strong export performance has meant that the trade deficit in April-August of this financial year stood at $41.4 billion, down 20.1% over its level in the April-August 2024 period.

Exports surge

India's total exports increased to $69.2 bn in August 2025, up 9.3% over its level in August last year



SOURCE: MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

NEARBY

BMTC bus catches fire at HAL stop

BENGALURU
A BMTC bus caught fire at the HAL bus stop in east Bengaluru on Monday morning. As many as 60 passengers were in the bus at the time of the accident, and all of them are safe.
» PAGE 2

Boy on new cycle crushed to death under lorry

BENGALURU
In a tragic incident, a 12-year-old boy was killed on the spot when a lorry knocked down his bicycle and ran over him in Kamakshipalya on Monday. » PAGE 3

Valmiki corpn. case: CBI conducts raids

BENGALURU
The Central Bureau of Investigation on Monday raided 16 premises in various parts of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh in connection with the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation case. » PAGE 6

Aadhaar is part of statute, can be used by voters, says SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Section 23(4) of the Representation of the People Act allows use of Aadhaar to authenticate entries

The Supreme Court on Monday said Aadhaar was part of the right-to-vote statute, and voters were permitted to utilise the unique identity proof to the extent permitted by the law.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi was responding to submissions intended to portray Aadhaar as inferior to the 11 documents listed by the Election Commission for voter verification during the special intensive revision of Bihar electoral rolls.

This has come barely a week after the court declared Aadhaar as the "12th document" aggrieved voters could attach in their claims and objections for including or excluding names on the voter list.

Plea against order

Petitioner-advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, who wants the court to rethink its August 8 order listing Aadhaar as the 12th document, said any person could get an Aadhaar, and that they need not necessarily be a citizen.

"Aadhaar is not proof of age, citizenship, residence, or domicile," Mr. Upadhyay said.

Justice Bagchi asked then what Aadhaar was meant to prove. Mr. Upadhyay said it was merely a "simple" proof of identity.

Referring to Section 23 (4) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, Justice Bagchi asked if Aadhaar was not part of the statute which governed the EC with regard to the right to vote and inclusion on the rolls.

The Section permits EC officials to use Aadhaar to authenticate entries on the electoral rolls.

To this, Mr. Upadhyay argued that Aadhaar could not be equated with any of the other 11 documents. "So, are you saying that a land record (one of the 11 documents) is more relevant than Aadhaar?" Justice Bagchi queried.

The court issued notice on Mr. Upadhyay's plea, and fixed October 7 to hear arguments on the legality of the special intensive revision. It said its judgment would prevail over anything that may happen.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Dasara: HC declines to interfere with govt. decision to invite Banu Mushtaq

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday declined to interfere with the State government's decision to invite writer and activist Banu Mushtaq, whose collection of Kannada short stories translated to English won the International Booker Prize 2025, to inaugurate the Mysuru Dasara festival, which begins on September 22.

A Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Joshi passed the order while dismissing petitions filed by Prathap Simha, former MP for Mysuru, and Girish Kumar T., Sowmya R., and H.S. Gaurav from Bengaluru.

"We are not persuaded to accept the arguments that an invitation to a person of different faith violates constitutional or legal right," the Bench said, while pronouncing the operative portion of the order.

Simha's contention

The Dasara festival is not the personal property of any government or political party but a collective heritage of the people of Karnataka and the broader Hindu community, it was contended in Mr. Simha's petition.

'Anti-Kannada' comments

Mr. Simha had questioned the invitation to Ms. Mushtaq primarily owing to her alleged "anti-Hindu and anti-Kannada" comments at a literary event in 2023, and also inviting her without consulting representatives of the Mysuru royal family.

Ms. Mushtaq had made known in her speech at the literary event that the State had kept her away from Kannada by giving the status of goddess to Kannada language, it was argued by Mr. Simha's advocate, while pointing out that her remark made it clear that she had no faith in worshipping a Hindu goddess. Mr. Simha said he had no objection to inviting her if she withdrew her "anti-Hindu and anti-Kannada" statements.

"How could the State government invite a person who has no faith in worshipping a Hindu goddess to inaugurate the Dasara festival, which commences by worshipping a goddess as per Hindu rituals?" it was argued on behalf of the petitioners.

A-G's stand

On the other hand, Advocate-General Shashi Kiran Shetty pointed out that Mr. Simha, when he was an MP, had shared the stage with poet Nisar Ahmed, who had inaugurated the Dasara festival in 2017.

A panel, comprising people from various walks of life, was consulted before choosing Ms. Mushtaq, the A-G told the Bench.

Pointing out that the State government had already issued a notification, stating that no one, irrespective of their caste or religion, should be prevented from entering any temple, whether under Muzrai Department or a private temple, the Advocate-General said that the government was performing its secular duty in organising the Dasara festival in Mysuru.

The great Indian spin trick

Tweakers have accounted for 105 wickets in 22 matches since last year's T20 WC which is one of the main reasons for the team's staggering record; Varun has been at the forefront of the success for the Men in Blue in his second coming as an international bowler

AFP

R. Kaushik
DUBAI

The decision-makers who make cricketing calls within the Indian setup may or may not have seen *Spin It to Win It*, but they sure have hit the jackpot, using spin to extend India's dominance in the 20-over format. Since the T20 World Cup in the USA and the Caribbean last year, India's spinners have accounted for 105 wickets in 22 matches in the Africas (Zimbabwe and South Africa) and in Asia (at home, in Sri Lanka and now in Dubai at the Asia Cup), one of the main reasons why the team has stacked up a staggering 19-3 win-loss record in a variant that doesn't always facilitate consistency of results.

Varun Chakaravarthy, the 34-year-old wrist-spinner from Chennai, has alone picked up nearly a third of those wickets; in 14 matches in his second coming as an international bowler, he has amassed 33 scalps, taking a wicket every over and a half while conceding just 7.25 runs per over. Others to make significant contributions in this period are the exceptionally effective but supremely underrated Axar Patel and little leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi, who now finds himself on the sidelines. Washington Sundar has had his say whenever he has been presented with an opportunity, Riyan Parag has weighed in from time to time, and even Suryakumar Yadav and Rinku Singh have tasted success with their very occasional off-spin.

When you consider that Kuldeep Yadav, the left-arm wrist-spinner, has played only two of those 22 games, the depth of India's spinning resources becomes even more pronounced. Kuldeep didn't figure in a single T20I between July 2024 and last week but reiterated his value, if any reiteration was required, with two superb spells in the Asia Cup. He followed up four for seven against UAE with three for 18 against Pakistan at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Sunday to give him unreal figures of seven for 25 from 6.1 overs for the tournament. Player-of-the-Match awards in both outings were inevitable, largely responsible as his scalps were in India's nine- and seven-wicket victories respectively.

It isn't as if India is short on pace-bowling options and have therefore had to perforce invest in the spin basket. In Jasprit Bumrah, they possess the most complete all-format bowler in the world, a force of nature adept at making the most of the new ball or returning at the death to flummox batters with his toe-crushing yorkers and wonderfully disguised slower deliveries.

Arshdeep Singh, the impressive left-armer who has stacked up more T20I wickets (99) than any other Indian in a little over three years since his debut in July 2022, is warming the bench owing to consideration of team dynamics. Hardik Pandya, the all-rounder, isn't just a stand-in; he can touch 140 kmph on a consistent basis, fancies himself as a short-ball exponent and influences outcomes with his bowling alone.

Precisely because Hardik and Dube are worth more than four overs between them, Suryakumar has been able to fall back on three specialist spinners, each of them adept at bowling at any stage of an innings. The great Muttiah Muralitharan, Test cricket's most prolific wicket-taker, wasn't a great fan of bowling when the field restrictions were on in either white-ball format. It didn't stop Murali from taking 534 ODI wickets or 682 sticks in all 50-over cricket, or 179 scalps in 164 T20s (he only played 12 20-over games for Sri Lanka).

Rashid Khan, the wonderful leg-spinner who has been the face of Afghanistan cricket, boasts more 20-over wickets (670) than anyone in the history of the game, yet he isn't at his most comfortable in the first six overs of PowerPlay. That doesn't make them lesser bowlers; all it does is enhance the versatility and adaptability of the three Indian spinners that are starting to assume the contours of a uber-potent strike force, a heartening development from India's perspective with the next World Cup less than six months away.

Not content with just 12 overs of high-quality spin, India is moulding other resources as insurance against a bad day for one or more of this troika. Towards that end, they are trying to get more out of Abhishek Sharma, the fearless left-handed opener who is a more than competent left-arm spinner, and Tilak Varma, the multi-faceted top-order batter whose off-spin is still a work in progress.

All other things being equal, Abhishek and Tilak will figure in India's first-choice XI at the World Cup, which will be played in India and Sri Lanka. In February-March, pitches will naturally be expected to assist spinners, and if India can have numerous options on that front without compromising on their batting muscle, nothing like it, right?

But for all the overs he might eke out of Abhishek and/or Tilak, the aces in Suryakumar's pack will remain the three main men. Axar, Varun and Kuldeep are vastly different kinds of bowlers, the only commonality apart from the fact that they are spinners being that each is cricket-smart and seems instinctively to grasp what's going on in a batter's mind. The tallest of the lot, Axar is a conventional left-arm finger-spinner who isn't chary of going round-armish if he thinks that's the best tack at the time. He is naturally quicker through the air and uses accuracy as his calling card, constantly attacking the stumps and therefore almost always bringing bowled and leg before into play. But there is more to him than just that. His changes of pace, as much as angles, are subtle but mighty effective. Whenever he slows the ball down and gives it a bit of air, he has batters in a fix because they feel they have lined him up and therefore anticipate greater airspeed. Without seeming to do anything special, Axar can hold his own more often than not. You don't pick up 74 matches in 73 T20Is while conceding no more than 7.21 runs per over by being run of the mill.

Kuldeep and Varun are both wrist-spinners, but hardly similar. Even today, the left-arm wrist-spinner is an unusual commodity in cricket; very few have had a long and successful career and even Kuldeep is finding it hard to break into the Test XI for no fault of his. On more than one pitch on the recent tour of England, he would have been a terrific weapon to have but India were forced to leave him out because of their obsession with batting depth even though Kuldeep is no mug with the bat.

In white-ball action, where the need for wickets is seen as pressing in the middle stages of an innings, he is a virtuoso who relies heavily on his stock ball that breaks into the right-hander, but he has an excellent wrong 'un, delivered without fuss from the back of the hand that turns wickedly and late. Especially to left-hand batters, he uses the wrong 'un to devastating effect, like Mohammad Nawaz found out on Sunday when he was trapped plumb in front, first ball.

Having played enough - 13 Tests, 113 ODIs and 42 T20Is - Kuldeep is adept at working out game situations. To him, length is non-negotiable but sometimes, he gets carried away with the weapons at his disposal. By his own admission, he is working on being more consistent in sticking to his stock ball, but when one has so many tricks in the bag, it is impossible not to dip into the bag regularly.

Varun is a late bloomer in all ways imaginable. He took to cricket late in life, and took his time finding his feet at the international level after a poor start that included a wicketless campaign at the 2021 T20 World Cup in this part of the world. Since his comeback towards the second half of last year, he has been a gathering force, impressing the selection panel and team management enough to be drafted into the 50-over squad for the Champions Trophy earlier this year. Unlike Kuldeep, he uses his googly more frequently, almost as much as he does the leg-break. He has worked on speed through the air and finds fizz on even placid surfaces, a surprise weapon that can flummox the best. A little tardy on the field and a reasonable batting rabbit, Varun's bowling skillset has compelled the leadership group to overlook those indiscretions. To his credit, he does work hard on his fielding and perhaps a more improved version isn't that far away.

Washington is waiting in the wings, knocking on the door to selection because like Axar, he is more than just a spinner. Like he showed again in England over the summer, his batting is a thing of beauty; he is eminently capable of switching gears and his second-innings half-century at the Oval, often overlooked, was a major influence in India's six-run triumph, given that a majority of his runs came in the company of No. 11 Prasidh Krishna.

The effortlessness with which he cleared the ropes was further proof of his big-hitting capability; like Kuldeep, his primary ball is the one that leaves the left-hander and he will be a handy weapon to possess, instead of or alongside the famous triumvirate that will look to extend its hegemony over batters of all hue in the Super Fours and beyond at the Asia Cup.

T20 cricket was installed as the ultimate challenge for spinners but as Rashid has consistently proved, and as Kuldeep, Varun and Axar are reinforcing, there is and will always be a place for high-quality practitioners of this craft. India is fortunate to have this gun threesome. Why not use it to hunt down batters, unsuspecting or otherwise? Why not spin it to win it?

THE GIST

- Not content with just 12 overs of high-quality spin, India is moulding other resources as insurance against a bad day for one or more of the troika of Kuldeep, Varun and Axar
- Axar is a conventional left-arm finger-spinner who isn't chary of going round-armish if he thinks that's the best tack at the time. He is naturally quicker through the air and uses accuracy as his calling card
- Since his comeback towards the second half of last year, Varun has been a gathering force, impressing the selection panel and team management enough to be drafted into the 50-over squad for the Champions Trophy earlier this year

Bus commuters flag tracking issues on BMTC application

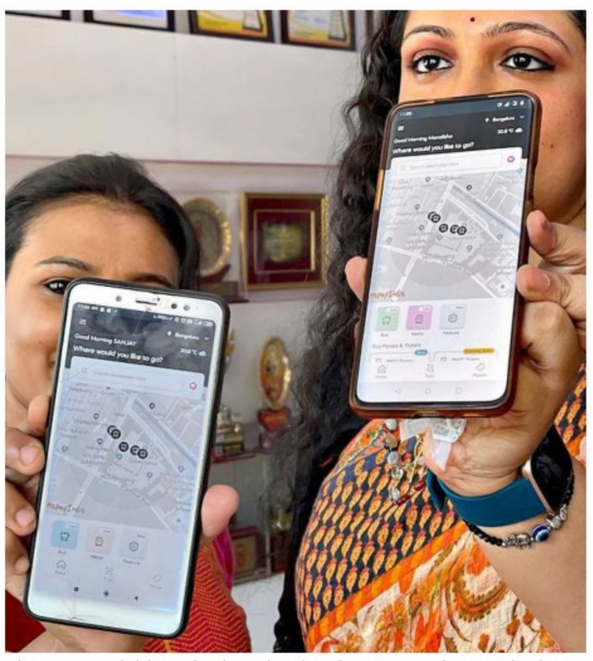
The app, launched in 2023, currently allows real-time tracking of 6,245 buses for city commuters. Passengers have complained that newly launched buses cannot be tracked on the platform

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bus commuters in Bengaluru are facing a new issue with the Namma BMTC mobile app, which allows real-time tracking of over 6,000 city buses. Passengers have complained that the newly launched electric air-conditioned (AC) buses, including the Vayu Vajra services to Kempegowda International Airport, cannot be tracked on the platform.

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) rolled out a new fleet of electric buses last month as part of improving the airport bus services. In August, 320 fully electric AC buses were introduced under the Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model, which includes 235 buses for Vajra city services and 85 for Vayu Vajra airport services.

As part of the first phase, 10 electric Vayu Vajra buses were deployed on August 14, operating across 11 routes connecting Bengaluru's residential and commercial hubs to the airport. While commuters welcomed the new fleet, many were quick to highlight the absence of these buses on the Namma BMTC app.



The app, available on both Android and iOS, not only provides live route information, but also enables users to locate nearby bus stops and has many other features. FILE PHOTO

Commuters face issues

Manoj Prasad, a daily commuter from J.P. Nagar who relies on Vayu Vajra services to reach the airport, said the lapse is causing inconvenience. "Earlier, I could track the old Vayu Vajra buses on the app. Now, the new electric Vayu Vajra buses don't show up at all. For regular commuters like me, the app is very useful since I can check the bus location and leave home accordingly. But since these new buses cannot be tracked, I have ended up missing them," he said.

The Namma BMTC app, launched in 2023, has been an important app for city travellers. Currently, it allows real-time tracking of 6,245 buses, helping passengers plan their journeys more efficiently. The app, available on both Android and iOS, not only provides live route information, but also enables users to locate nearby bus stops, check facilities at stations and Traffic and Transit Management Centres (TTMCs), and even raise an alert during emergencies through an integrated SOS button.

For many users, however, the tracking gap has undermined the app's purpose. "The Namma BMTC app is good for tracking, but I have noticed lately that most of the newly launched electric AC buses aren't showing up on it. The regular buses are visible, but not the new fleet. This makes it hard to rely on the app as a travel planner. How much time will it take for BMTC to just add these new buses to the system?" questioned Anupama Joshi, a commuter from Yelahanka.

Integration under way

BMTC officials have acknowledged the technical issue. A senior official confirmed that integration of the new electric buses with the Namma BMTC app is still under way.

"All the EV buses already in the BMTC fleet have been integrated with the app as per our GCC contract terms. Only the newly launched AC electric buses are pending integration. This is being worked on, and once completed, passengers will be able to track them as well," the official said.

The official pointed out that since the electric AC buses represent a new fleet addition, the integration process requires time, and said, "These buses are brand new and their onboard systems need to be synced with our tracking network; we are working to complete this at the earliest."

BMTC bus catches fire at HAL stop; all passengers and crew safe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A BMTC bus caught fire at the HAL bus stop in east Bengaluru on Monday morning. As many as 60 passengers were in the bus at the time of the accident, and all of them are safe.

According to the police, the bus, belonging to Depot-51 (vehicle No. KA 57 F 4568), was heading to KBS. When it reached the HAL bus stop around 5.10 a.m., the engine caught fire.

Driver Jayachandra and conductor Chowdappa ensured that all the passengers were safely evacuated and sent onward on another bus.

A screen grab of the burning bus in Bengaluru on Monday.

Immediately after the fire was noticed, the bus crew informed the Fire and Emergency Services Department. Fire personnel reached the spot and extinguished the fire.

However, the bus was burnt. A technical team led by BMTC's Chief Mechanical Engineer, along with the police, reached the spot and initiated a probe to ascertain the cause of the fire.

The HAL police are awaiting their report.

The BMTC, in a statement, reiterated that passenger safety is of the highest priority and promised that all necessary technical measures will be taken immediately to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

GBA Commissioner directs officials to expedite pothole filling, road projects

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

He also calls for speedy completion of works on 11 high-density corridors

M. Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), on Monday instructed officials and contractors to expedite pothole filling and complete ongoing road works across its limits, which cover 1,648 km of major roads.

The commissioner highlighted that 61 roads, covering 104 km, have been white-topped between 2016 and 2024. A fresh white-topping project is now underway on 82 roads spanning 143 km, costing ₹1,700 crore. Contractors have been directed to ensure public safety during these works, particularly in places where ducts are being laid, side drains and underground drainage systems are being developed, and where Cauvery water pipelines are being relocated, by installing barricades, using caution tape, and removing debris promptly. In addition, blacktopping of 182 roads covering 349 km is in progress at a cost of ₹694 crore, with a deadline of November 2025.

Mr. Rao instructed officials to ensure proper grading to prevent water stagnation on newly laid roads.

The commissioner reminded contractors that 178 roads, totalling 401 km, are still under the defect liability period (DLP). They are required to repair potholes and surface damage within deadlines, failing which the GBA will undertake repairs and deduct the cost. Of the 188 roads that have completed their DLP, 62 are in poor condition and will be taken up for immediate repairs.

To ensure accountability, officials were told to enforce annual maintenance contracts and monitor the cleanliness of footpaths, shoulder drains, and slabs.

Mr. Rao also called for speedy completion of works on 11 high-density corridors (46 km) and directed metro authorities to clear debris near construction sites. A new centralised software system will track road projects, contractors, and pothole data for better coordination.

Pulse Rewards loyalty programme launched for passengers at KIA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has launched a loyalty programme – Pulse Rewards – which enables passengers to earn and redeem points seamlessly across retail, F&B, duty free, lounges, and the BLR Pulse app.

The airport is operated by Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL).

According to BIAL, every customer transaction at participating outlets now translates into tangible rewards. Members will earn 2% of their spends as points, with one point equal to ₹1, making every purchase at the airport more rewarding. Additional benefits include birthday and anniversary bonus points, exclusive access to events, and special partner offers.

To mark the launch, festive promotions have been introduced for Dasara and Deepavali, giving passengers the opportunity to get up to 1,000 bonus points in addition to the base 2%, when they shop or dine. The offers are valid till October 26.

Kenneth Guldbjerg, Chief Commercial Officer at Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL), said, "With Pulse Rewards, we are bringing in an element of anticipation and discovery into every interaction. Shop, dine, or simply explore – and you're earning points. It's about making the journey more fun, more engaging, and more rewarding. We don't just want passengers to pass through; we want them to play, discover, and unlock experiences every time they are at the airport."

Passengers can download the BLR Pulse app and register to start earning and redeeming points instantly.

Throughout the year, Pulse Rewards will host special events and promotions, offering members unique experiences and additional opportunities to earn points. From shopping sprees to dining treats, every interaction at the airport now comes with a bonus, ensuring journeys are not just about reaching destinations, but enjoying the experience along the way, according to BIAL.

HC disposes of eight-year-old PIL petition against illegal hoardings

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday closed the proceedings, which went on for eight years since 2017, on a PIL petition that had complained about erection of indiscriminate illegal advertisement hoardings, banners, flexes, etc., across the city contrary to the provisions of the Karnataka Open Places (Prevention of Disfigurement) Act, 1981.

Acting on this petition filed by one Mayige Gowda of Bengaluru, the court since 2018 had issued a series of directions, which included ordering registration of First Information Reports (FIRs) against those putting up such structures illegally, and banning all kinds of hoardings, banners, etc., for certain period during 2018-19 during the pendency of creation of a mechanism to prevent illegal hoardings, banners, etc., and to initiate action against those indulging such illegal acts.

Suo motu case

The court, in 2024, had *suo motu* initiated another PIL petition on noticing that the government had failed to effectively implement several directions issued in the petition filed by Mr. Gowda, and had pulled up the chief commissioner of the erstwhile Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike.

When both the petitions came up for hearing before a Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Joshi, petitioner's advocate G.R. Mohan pointed out that the grievance of the petitioner has been met as the by-law to regulate the hoardings, banners, etc., has been notified by the authority concerned in July 2025. Recording this statement from the petitioner's advocate, the Bench disposed of the petition besides closing the proceedings initiated *suo motu* by the court last year.

Applications invited for PLI and RPLI direct agents

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Office of the Chief Postmaster, Bangalore GPO division, has invited applications to engage direct agents for procuring Postal Life Insurance (PLI) and Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI).

A walk-in interview will be held on September 18 and 19 at 11 a.m. at the Chief Postmaster's Office, Bengaluru GPO, Bengaluru - 560001.

Applicants must carry recent passport-size photographs, a bio-data or resume, Aadhaar card, and copies of educational certificates.

Eligibility criteria include a minimum qualification of 10th pass and age between 18 and 50 years. For details, interested candidates can contact 080-22850027.

'Dubai-based group keen to supply cable solutions for metro'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A senior delegation from the company met Minister M.B. Patil on Monday to explore areas of collaboration

DUCAB Group, a cable manufacturer headquartered in Dubai, has expressed interest in supplying advanced cable solutions to the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL), according to Karnataka's Minister for Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development, M.B. Patil.

A senior delegation from the company met Mr. Patil on Monday to explore areas of collaboration. Mr. Patil said that DUCAB has already initiated discussions with BMRCL and its contractors for the supply of fire-survival and extra-high-voltage cables to strengthen Namma Metro's expanding network.

"DUCAB has also proposed supporting the construction of 132KV/33KV sub-stations to ensure uninterrupted power for Metro operations. In addition, the company has shown interest in extending sustainable energy cable solutions to the suburban railway system and Kempegowda International Airport (Terminal 2)," he added.

Jointly owned by govt.

Jointly owned by the governments of Dubai and Abu Dhabi, DUCAB manufactures cables and wires for energy, construction, defence, transport, and other sectors, a release stated.

SWR initiative reaches over 2 lakh solo women travellers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of South Western Railway (SWR) has reached out to more than two lakh women passengers this year as part of 'Operation Meri Saheli', a dedicated initiative to ensure the safety and comfort of women travelling alone.

Launched in November 2020 by Indian Railways, the initiative focuses on providing assistance from the time of boarding until the completion of the journey.

According to Chief Public Relations Officer of SWR, Manjunath Kanamadi, RPF teams interacted with 2,08,869 women passengers across 4,869 trains this year, ensuring safer and more secure travel.

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At present, 250 Meri Saheli teams, consisting exclusively of women RPF personnel, are deployed across the railway network, covering around 500 trains daily and assisting nearly 13,000 solo women travellers. "In SWR alone, 10 dedicated teams comprising 25 personnel are actively engaged in the project," Mr. Kanamadi added.

An official from the Meri Saheli team said, "We assist women passengers right from safe boarding and alighting to offering support throughout the journey. Many women, especially first-time travellers or those travelling with children, feel vulnerable while navigating crowded stations or long-distance journeys. Our role is to reassure them, provide information about their route, guide them during ticket checks or inquiries, and, most importantly, respond quickly in case of any emergency. Even a simple interaction often makes passengers feel more secure and cared for during their travel."

Another RPF official said that the initiative has significantly improved confidence among women passengers.

"Earlier, many women travelling alone expressed concerns about safety on long-distance routes. Now, with 'Operation Meri Saheli', passengers know there is a dedicated team monitoring their well-being. We share details of single women passengers with the headquarters and intermediate stations, which helps us track their progress and provide support at multiple points. This continuity reassures passengers that they are not alone, and it builds trust in the railway system," the official added.

Feedback

According to officials, feedback forms are collected at the end of journeys to assess the effectiveness of the initiative and to identify areas for improvement. The SWR officials said the responses have been overwhelmingly positive, with women passengers highlighting the sense of safety and confidence the programme has brought to their travel experience.

"'Operation Meri Saheli' has emerged as one of the most successful women-centric safety initiatives of Indian Railways. Through proactive engagement, timely guidance, and the dedicated presence of our women RPF personnel, we have been able to create a secure and supportive environment. This initiative is not just about safety, but also about instilling confidence in women travellers," said Mr. Kanamadi.

As the lights stay on, birds are staying up past their bedtime

By combining millions of recordings from hundreds of species, scientists found that artificial light is nudging birds to stay awake longer. The timings for birds with large, watchful eyes shifted the most, while small-eyed species barely stirred. The changes were sharpest in the breeding season

Anupama Chandrasekaran

Light pollution has been stretching the hours for which birds are active. SAAD CHAUDHRY/UNSPLASH

These days, an inky, sightless night is a rare sight in much of the world. From the harsh glare of streetlamps that make us squint to the gaudy flicker of neon billboards that force sunglass shields, artificial light is blurring the line between day and night.

This has meant birds stay active for almost an hour longer after sundown in brightly lit areas, according to a global study of 583 species and more than 60 million bird vocalisations, drawn from 181 million raw detections.

"I know how I feel when I lose an hour of sleep," said Brent Pease, the lead author of the study. Dr. Pease is an assistant professor at the School of Forestry and Horticulture at Southern Illinois University Carbondale in the US. "This can't be a great situation. But the picture is complex."

Scientists warn this shift disrupts birds' natural rhythms, altering migration, feeding, and breeding. This in turn unsettles food chains and ecosystems.

For Dr. Pease, this project began as a teaching idea to introduce students to birds via their songs. He set up a simple sound recorder and a small computer to capture bird calls. That's when he noticed a prompt asking if he wanted to link to a platform where volunteers shared bird sounds identified using artificial intelligence (AI).

"I couldn't believe what I was seeing," Dr. Pease said. "There were thousands of sound recorders, all across the globe."

He likened the discovery of this source to an earlier revolution in wildlife science: trail cameras. Motion- and heat-triggered cameras transformed mammal studies, revealing behaviours once invisible to researchers, from leopards prowling at night to deer grazing at dawn.

BirdWeather, a volunteer-powered acoustic network analysed with an AI model called BirdNET, has done something similar for birds by automatically logging and identifying their songs across continents.

Twilight chorus

"Light pollution in particular has been interesting to me," said Neil Gilbert, a co-author of the study and a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Biology, Oklahoma State University in the US. "I've thought a lot about how animals are responding to stressors and especially behaviour timing."

Dr. Pease looped in Dr. Gilbert to study how artificial light at night affected bird behaviour. They tapped into this worldwide system of microphones and sensors placed by volunteers in backyards and forests that built a real-time map of bird activity.

The scientists focused on two daily markers: the first song at sunrise and the last at sunset. They also looked at eye size, nest type, migration patterns, and habitats to understand which species were most vulnerable. Then they compared recordings from brightly lit areas with those from darker places.

Dr. Pease and Dr. Gilbert thus found that light pollution was stretching the hours for which birds remained active.

By combining millions of recordings from hundreds of species – most from the U.S., Europe, and Australia, with fewer from the Global South – they found that artificial light was nudging birds to stay awake longer by nearly an hour.

"We were pretty surprised by the size of the effect," Dr. Gilbert said. "Fifty minutes as an average across species was quite a bit more than what we were expecting."

Not all birds were reacting to artificial light to the same degree, however.

Those with large, watchful eyes shifted the most, singing 35 minutes earlier at dawn and 56 minutes later at dusk in bright areas. Small-eyed species barely stirred from their routine. Open-nesters exposed to the sky felt the glow more than cavity nesters sheltered in tree holes. Migratory birds were also more unsettled than stay-at-home species. The changes were sharpest in the breeding season.

Some species were active two hours longer, others by just a few minutes. But the signal was consistent: where nights were brighter, days stretched unnaturally longer.

"If they're spending an extra hour of time ... they're going to need more additional caloric intake for all this extra activity that they're doing," Dr. Pease said. "But this additional extra hour of activity can also result in an increased foraging time and potentially even increased reproductive output."

'Darkness disrupted'

Anusha Shankar at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Hyderabad, is an integrative biologist who combines insights from across biology to study organisms. She explained why this study matters.

> If they're spending an extra hour, ... they're going to need additional caloric intake for all this extra activity that they're doing,. But this additional activity can also result in an increased foraging time and potentially even increased reproductive output
>
> **BRENT PEASE**
>
> School of Forestry and Horticulture at Southern Illinois University Carbondale

"Every organism that we know of on earth, every animal, even many plants, and phytoplankton – they all have some sort of sense of time," Dr. Shankar said. "And a lot of that comes from light cues."

Artificial light breaks these natural cycles. For instance, across Indian cities, birds are dying after colliding with brightly lit glass facades, turning shiny office buildings into deadly traps.

"So if you disrupt these ancient rhythms, everything gets messed up," she said.

These mismatches can be devastating for migratory birds. Birds time their movements to food sources that also depend on seasonal light cues. If plants flower earlier or insects hatch later, journeys that evolved over time may suddenly become perilous.

Filmmaker Sriram Murali supports keeping the night dark for people, animals, and stars. Through his research and films on fireflies, Mr. Murali has campaigned to raise awareness of light pollution. He calls these beetles the "flagship species of the night". Fireflies use flashes of bioluminescent light to attract mates.

In southern Indian forests and villages, their hypnotic synchronised twinkling can be seen for a brief spell in May and June, just after sunset. On peak nights, entire groves shimmer with their green-gold pulses, like fairy lights strung across the trees. But artificial lighting hacks this communication, making it harder for them to survive.

"We know that exposure to lighting affects the circadian rhythm," said Mr. Murali of our bodies' natural clock that controls sleep and wakefulness. "Doctors know it and we are careful about it for our own children. So then the question is, how do we teach people empathy and bring about change?"

A simple switch

Whether stretching a bird's day is a blessing or a burden is still uncertain. More time to feed and to mate may help; less time to rest may hurt.

The good news is that unlike many other human pressures, light pollution is reversible. Streetlamps can be shielded, billboards dimmed, and lights switched off when not needed.Dr. Pease pointed out that unlike climate change or habitat destruction, reducing light pollution doesn't require massive investments or decades of restoration.

"If light pollution turns out to be a negative thing for bird populations, we can do a behaviour change across the globe to turn out the lights and make the night dark again," Dr. Pease said. "We're just a light switch away here."

(anupama.c@thehindu.co.in)

Sterile male fruit flies are released in a field in Naoussa, Greece, on September 1, 2025. AFP

Greece revs up to face invasive fruit flies from Asia

Agence France Presse

In a small persimmon orchard in northern Greece, scientists carefully open paper bags to release thousands of flies, in an experiment aimed at blunting the destructive impact of new invasive species.

The insects are sterile male Mediterranean fruit flies (*Ceratitis capitata*), a pest that annually causes significant damage to crops in Naousa, where a large proportion of Greece's prominent export, the peach, is produced.

But the project is ultimately aimed at curbing an even greater threat: fruit fly species from Asia, which have begun to make their appearance in southeastern Europe as climate change increases local temperatures.

The four-year, EU-funded project titled REACT brings together researchers from 12 different countries including the UK, Israel and South Africa. The programme has a budget of 6.65 million euros.

The male flies are grown at the University of Patras and are fed a bacterial supplement that makes them more active, resilient, and competitive, said George Tsiamis, the university's Laboratory of Microbiology Systems director.

"This means they are more likely to survive in nature, fly longer distances, live longer, and, most importantly, mate with wild females," he added. "Since the males are sterile, these matings produce no offspring, gradually reducing and ultimately eliminating harmful populations."

The Enhanced Sterile Insect Technique is pesticide-free, environmentally friendly, and compatible with organic farming practices, according to Tsiamis.

Orchard owner Savvas Pastopoulos, an agronomist by training, has welcomed the project and has been tasked with winning over other Naousa fruit growers.

Since the males are sterile, they produce no offspring, gradually reducing and ultimately eliminating harmful populations

"At first, they were somewhat sceptical when they saw these bags with insects, but after it was explained to them, they understood," the 40-year-old said. "There have been seasons when, due to the Mediterranean fruit fly, we lost our production in just 15 days."

Scientists note that invasive fruit flies are among the most destructive threats to global food production. Two species, the oriental fruit fly (*Bactrocera dorsalis*) and the peach fruit fly (*Bactrocera zonata*), have caused massive economic damage worldwide. Native to Southeast Asia, they now threaten to invade Europe.

The oriental fruit fly has been repeatedly observed in Europe. Around Naples, several occurrences are reported every year, and the species has also been recorded in France and Belgium.

Climate change makes matters worse as both invasive species thrive in warm weather, said Vasilis Rodovitis, a doctoral candidate at the Laboratory of Entomology and Agricultural Zoology at the University of Thessaly.

"These two insects were found to be capable of wintering in the warmer parts of Europe, such as Crete and Valencia," he said. "In temperate regions like Naples and Thessaloniki, we observed a small survival rate, but enough to establish new populations after winter, in early spring."

The team chose Naousa as the testing ground because the Mediterranean fly population in the region appears at low levels, resembling those during the early stages of a new species invasion.

"This is the first European field trial of sterile insect release on such a small, targeted scale using our improved sterile insects," said the project's coordinator Marc F. Schetelig.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Tinkering with storms

Vasudevan Mukunth

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1

On September 16, 1961, the US National Hurricane Research Project dropped several containers of _____ _____ into Hurricane Esther's eyewall and a drop in wind speed by 10% was reported. In a subsequent test, the same compound was dropped outside the eyewall and no changes in wind speed were reported. On the basis of this (dubious) success, the US launched what came to be known as Project Stormfury. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 2

The compound in Q1 is used in cloud seeding because of a process called X, where — because the compound has the same structure as ice — it induces freezing. Name X.

QUESTION 3

In 1976, Project Stormfury had shifted to the Pacific Ocean, where the plan was to make flights from Guam and attempt to cloud-seed typhoons rather than hurricanes. However, _____ objected that it wouldn't tolerate typhoons changing course as a result and making landfall over its territory. Fill in the blank with the name of a country.

QUESTION 4

In 1980, scientists who were tracking Hurricane _____, which remains the most powerful Atlantic hurricane on record in terms of wind speed, found that changes in its characteristics refuted the working hypothesis of Project Stormfury. Fill in the blank.

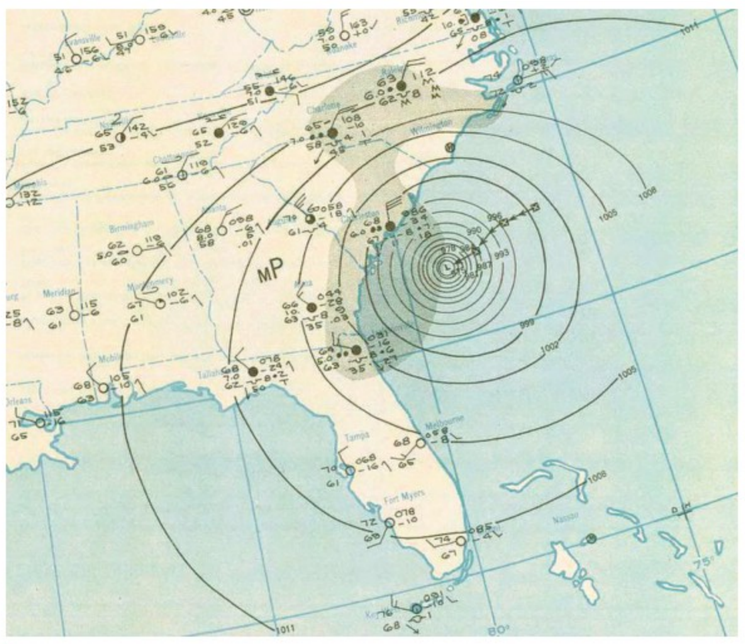
QUESTION 5

_____ _____ once alleged that Project Stormfury was a US attempt to weaponise hurricanes during the Cold War. Fill in the blanks with the name of a revolutionary leader.

Answers to September 11 quiz:

1. Weapon type of Russia's "Father of All Bombs" – **Ans: Thermobaric**
2. Colloquial name for GBU43/B bomb – **Ans: "Mother of all Bombs"**
3. Principle used by Shkval torpedoes to reach high speeds – **Ans: Supercavitation**
4. Weapons classified as airbreathing and boost-glide – **Ans: Hypersonic**
5. Weapon designed to penetrate armour – **Ans: Explosively formed penetrator**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Tamal Biswas | Harilakshmi M. | Anmol Agrawal



Visual: Name this 1947 hurricane that became the subject of controversy after its sharp turn to the northeast, into Florida, was blamed on cloud-seeding.
PUBLIC DOMAIN

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

12-year-old riding new cycle crushed to death under lorry

Shashank used to pester his father to buy him a cycle but the latter refused, saying he would get him one after class 10. However, the boy's grandfather sold his lamb and got him the cycle

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a tragic incident, a 12-year-old boy was killed on the spot when a lorry knocked down his bicycle and ran over him on Sannakki Bayalu Road in Kamakshipalya on Monday.

The deceased was identified as Shashank, a class 8 student. He had come from school and was excited about the new cycle his grandfather had gifted him. He picked up the cycle and went to call his friend to play with him.

The police said his friend's parents refused to send him along, so Shashank went alone to cycle around. While moving on the Sannakki Bayalu Road, a few metres away from his house, a lorry said to be speeding knocked down his cycle. Shashank lost control and came under the rear wheel of the lorry and was crushed to death. The lorry driver abandoned the vehicle and fled from the scene.

Shashank was living with his parents, sister, and grandfather. His father works in a garment factory. Shashank used to pester his father to get him a cycle, but he had refused, stating that he would get him one after after class 10.

However, his grandfather, who had a lamb, sold it and got him the cycle.

The Kamakshipalya traffic police have registered a case of hit and run, death due to negligence and also rash and negligent driving against the driver and efforts are on to track him down.

Eight arrested and booked under NDPS Act after police raid Pebble Bar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Continuing the crackdown on drug peddling and consumption, the Sadashivanagar police have raided Pebble Bar, Palace Grounds and arrested eight people under the influence of drugs.

Based on a tip-off, a team of police raided the bar around 11.30 p.m. on Saturday where around 180 people were partying. The police along with the scene of crime officer (SOCO) zeroed in on 16 people on suspicion and subjected them to medical test which proved eight among them had consumed MDMA and marijuana, the police said. The accused have been arrested for consuming drugs under the NDPS act .

The accused have been taken into custody for further investigations to ascertain the source of the drugs.

Initial probe revealed that they had purchased and consumed the drugs from outside before attending the party.

The city police are keeping a tab on the hotels, pubs, lodges, party halls and restaurants after reports on drugs supply and consumption.

On September 7, in a joint operation, the Cubbon Park police and Central Crime Branch (CCB) raided JW Marriott Hotel and booked the hotel incharge for allegedly operating beyond permissible hours. Though no narcotic substances were physically recovered from the attendees at the time, preliminary medical tests conducted on-site indicated that a couple of individuals were under the influence of marijuana which they claimed to have sourced and consumed from outside before coming to the party.

The city police are keeping a tab on hotels, pubs, lodges, party halls, and restaurants after reports on drugs supply and consumption there

On September 8, the Anti-Narcotics Wing (ANW) of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) raided Supreme Suites, a lodge that had allegedly become a hub for drug sales and consumption.

The arrested suspects have been identified as 24-year-old Karim and 20-year-old Affan, both from Puttur – who had allegedly been using the hotel not only to sell drugs but also to provide accommodation for users.

A senior police officer, supervising the raid, advised owners of the bars and restaurants and commercial establishments to do due diligence while hosting such programmes. Checking the background of their staff and keeping an eye on any misuse of their premises is mandatory failing which legal action will be initiated, the police warned.

Phones of actors Upendra and Priyanka hacked

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Many of the actors' friends and relatives received messages seeking money transfer through UPI.

Kannada film actor and director Upendra and his wife Priyanka Upendra have filed a complaint with the Sadashivanagar police in Bengaluru stating that their mobile phones were hacked to send messages to their contacts seeking financial help.

Many of their friends and relatives received messages seeking money transfer through UPI, citing an emergency, with a promise to return the amount within a couple of hours.

Ms. Priyanka told the media that she had received a message claiming an order could not be delivered due to some problem.

She was told to dial a number containing symbols.

Both Priyanka and Upendra attempted to call the number from their phones after which their devices were compromised and blocked.

Many of their friends and relatives transferred money.

To prevent further damage, the couple went live on the social media requesting people not to respond to such fraudulent requests.

"A message came to my wife Priyanka's phone... we dialled from Priyanka's phone and then from mine too. Both our phones got hacked," Upendra explained.

Priyanka also appealed to people stating: "My phone and Uprendra's phones have been hacked. Some people are asking for money through UPI. We appeal to everyone not to send any money."

Autorickshaw driver booked for sexually harassing student

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Puttenahalli police have registered a case of sexual harassment against an autorickshaw driver for allegedly harassing a 19-year-old female student after dropping her at her destination recently.

Yet to be tracked

Despite filing a complaint with the details of the accused, the police are yet to track down the accused even after a week.

The incident occurred on September 8, when the victim, had booked the autorickshaw on the Rapido ride-hailing app at 4.28 p.m. from her college to house. She was picked up by the accused, identified as Hanumanthappa H. Talwar.

Narrating the ordeal, the victim, in her complaint, said that she reached her destination at around 5.15 p.m. and was about to get down when the accused told her that she looked like a film actress and on the pretext of helping her bring down her bag, touched her inappropriately.

She informed her mother before approaching the police.

Another incident

On September 7, a 29-year-old web designer was sexually harassed twice by a man while she was helping an injured stray dog near Jakkur Double Road to cross the road.

The accused, identified as Manjunath, an engineer by profession, was chased by the victim's friends and was caught after he lost balance and fell while riding away.

He was then handed over to the Amruthahalli patrolling police who reached the spot later.

However, the accused managed to flee and was later traced by the police at his apartment near Bagalur.

Manjunath sustained injuries and was admitted to the hospital and police arrested him later.

Electrician jumps to death from 24th floor of residential apartment

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 26-year-old electrician allegedly ended his life by jumping from the 24th floor of a residential apartment in Chikkabidarakallu at Madanayakanahalli in Bengaluru in the early hours of Monday.

The deceased has been identified as Lokesh Pawan Krishna, a native of Andhra Pradesh who was working in a city-based mall.

The deceased had gone to his sister's apartment and allegedly jumped to his death.

He left behind a note stating that he is taking the extreme step due to health issues. The security guard, who found the body in a pool of blood, alerted the police. On checking the CCTV camera footage, the police noticed that he had climbed up the building and jumped.

The police are questioning the family members to ascertain the cause of him taking the extreme step.

Case registered

A case of un-natural death has been registered for further investigation.

(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani Ph.: 104 for help.)

Bike-borne armed men snatch gold chains

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Girinagar police are on the lookout for two bike-borne men who attacked two women with a machete and took their gold chains at Ishwari Layout in Bengaluru on September 14. The victims, Usha and Varalakshmi, are homemakers. They were returning home after watching an orchestra during the Ganesha festival.

The accused were wearing helmets. They confronted the two women and demanded their valuables. When the women tried to resist, the accused attacked them with a machete and snatched the gold chains – one was of 10 g and another of 45 g – from their necks before fleeing from the spot.

The women sustained injuries.

Private firm employee loses ₹72L months after being duped of ₹71L

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Barely eight months after getting back a part of the ₹71 lakh lost in a cyber fraud, a 24-year-old private firm employee was duped again, losing ₹72 lakh in a fresh online investment trap. The victim, a resident of S.R. Nagar, has approached the Central Division Cyber Crime police seeking help again.

Based on the complaint filed on Saturday, the police have registered an FIR against the unknown person charging him under IT Act and section 308 (extortion) of BNS.

According to the complaint, the victim had been cheated of ₹71.9 lakh in online trading scam in April this year and a complaint was filed. After the court intervention, a part of the amount - ₹9.8 lakh - was reverted to the complainant's account.

On July 1, the complainant was called by unknown person on his social media account and on WhatsApp call threatening to file cases against him in different police stations and forced him to transfer a total of ₹72.6 lakh online between July 1 and September 11 this year.

The police are now seeking transactions details to verify the veracity of the complaint. Further investigations are on.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, SEP. 16
RISE 06:09 SET 18:20
RISE 01:02 SET 14:26

WEDNESDAY, SEP. 17
RISE 06:09 SET 18:19
RISE 02:03 SET 15:18

THURSDAY, SEP. 18
RISE 06:09 SET 18:18
RISE 03:01 SET 16:04

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	24
Mysuru	30	19
Bengaluru	29	20

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be comfortable. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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Rescued sloth bear from Ballari gets prosthetic leg

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Vasikaran or Vasi became the world's first rescued sloth bear to receive a prosthetic leg, after a long procedure by prosthetics expert Derrick Campana. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A male sloth bear named Vasikaran from the Bannerghatta Bear Rescue Centre has become the world's first rescued sloth bear to receive a prosthetic leg.

Vasikaran, also known as Vasi, was rescued in Ballari district from a snare trap injury and had lost his hind leg to amputation in 2019. The bear was brought for treatment at the Bannerghatta Bear Rescue Centre where he had adapted to life moving on three legs.

However, in January, following a long-drawn procedure conducted by prosthetics expert Derrick Campana, Vasikaran became the world's first rescued sloth bear to receive a prosthetic leg.

With Wildlife SoS

Mr. Campana, collaborated with Wildlife SOS, a non-profit conservation organisation to design a custom prosthetic limb tailored to bear's unique need. "Over several days, Campana fitted Vasi with a limb strong enough to withstand his natural behaviours - digging, climbing, and foraging," Wildlife SOS said.

Wildlife SOS added the entire procedure, which spanned over three days of careful molding, testing and adjustments.

"It has enabled him to roam with ease, no longer burdened by the pain and strain, but instead moving with a new sense of freedom and comfort,"Wildlife SOS added.

"Every animal I work with teaches me something new, but Vasi's case was extraordinary. Designing a prosthetic for a sloth bear was a challenge unlike any other, but seeing him take those first steps made every effort worthwhile. It's an honour to be part of his journey," Mr. Campana said.

Global milestone

Wildlife SOS said that this procedure, performed for the first time ever on a sloth bear at a rescue facility, is a global milestone in prosthetics and biomechanics. "However, it also highlights the dangers of poaching and the urgent need to protect sloth bears in India," Wildlife SOS said.

A.V. Surya Sen, Executive Director of Bannerghatta Biological Park, said, "This collaboration highlights how science, innovation, and care can come together to transform animal welfare. prosthetic is a remarkable example of specialised solutions that bring dignity and comfort to rescued wildlife."

MINISTRY OF
SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India will open the NOS Portal for inviting online applications for study in Masters and Ph.D courses abroad under National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for low income students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, De-notified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes, Landless Agricultural Labourers and Traditional Artisans category for the second round of selection year 2025-26.

The portal will remain open for inviting the applications from **15-09-2025** to **24-10-2025** and, thereafter, the portal shall be reopened from **26-10-2025** to **29-10-2025** for making corrections only.

The detailed guidelines for filling the form are available on the portal. Before filling the form, the candidates are advised to check their eligibility as per the Scheme Guidelines.

The link of the portal is **www.nosmsje.gov.in**

Scan QR code for more details

CBC 38101/11/0020/2526

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ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of cluster munition casualties in Ukraine

1,200 Cluster munitions have killed or injured civilians in Ukraine since Russia's invasion began. Ukraine recorded the highest annual cluster munition casualties, with 193 cases in 2024 out of 314 globally. AFP

Pilgrims from Chhattisgarh killed in bus-truck collision

4 The bus carried 50 passengers, and nine others were seriously injured after their bus rammed into a truck on the Lucknow-Varanasi National Highway in Jaunpur's Sihipur village early on Monday. The driver has been detained for negligence. PTI

Value of projects launched by the Prime Minister in Bihar

36,000 in ₹ crore. PM Narendra Modi launched development projects in Bihar's Purnea. He inaugurated the new Purnea airport terminal and flagged off the first flight to Kolkata. PTI

Civilians killed in Burkina Faso jihadist attacks since May

50 At least 40 civilians were killed in attacks by the Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims (GSIM) in Djibo and Youba, while the Islamic State in the Sahel Province (IS Sahel) killed nine civilians in an ambush on humanitarian convoy to Gorom Gorom. AFP

The minimum fare approved for bike taxis in Maharashtra

15 in ₹. The Maharashtra State Transport Authority has approved a minimum fare of ₹15 for 1.5 km for bike taxis, though the service is yet to be formally launched. Beyond that, passengers will pay ₹10.27 per km. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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SC on anticipatory bail in caste crime

Supreme Court cancels anticipatory bail granted to a caste crime accused, upholding Section 18 of the SC/ST Act; the ruling reinforces protection for Dalit victims, bars pre-trial relief, and warns courts against conducting a 'mini-trial' at the bail stage

LETTER & SPIRIT

Vikram Karuna

The story so far:

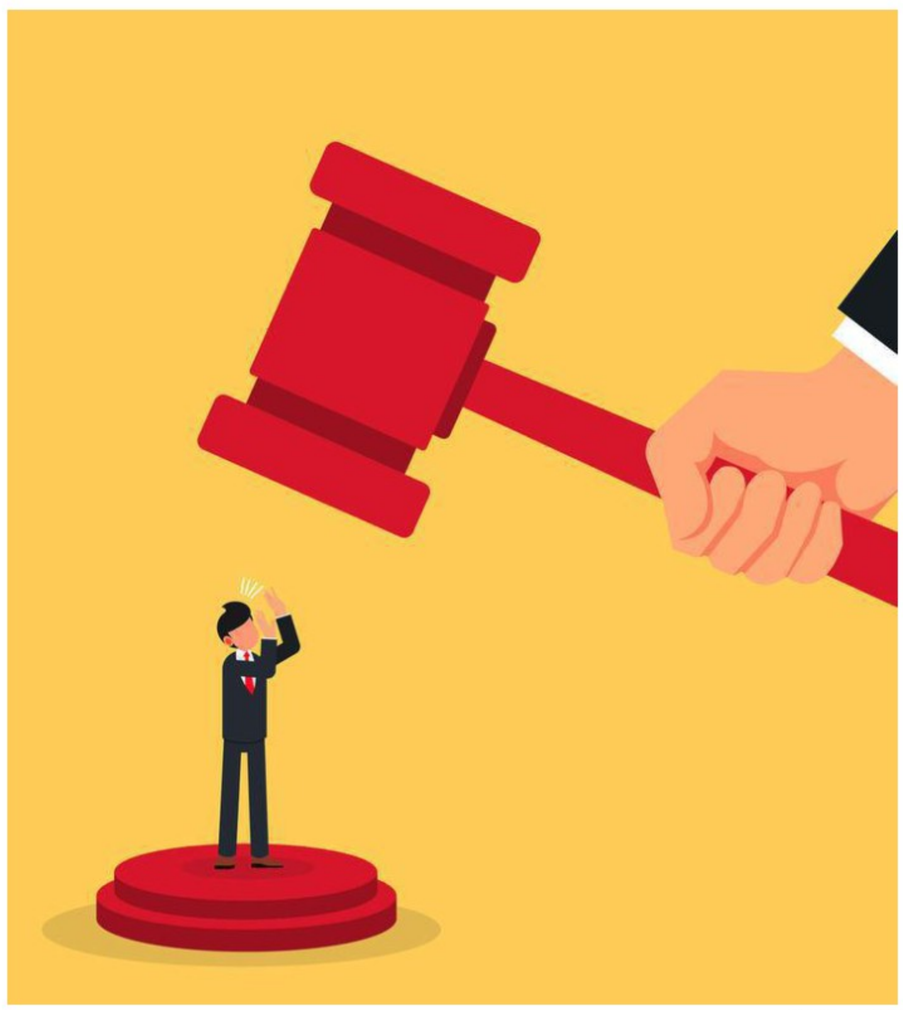
On September 1, the Supreme Court quashed a Bombay High Court order that had granted anticipatory bail to an accused of caste crimes. In the case of *Kiran vs Rajkumar Jivaraj Jain*, a Bench led by Chief Justice of India B. R. Gavai held that Section 18 of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, creates a specific bar against anticipatory bail for crimes made out *prima facie*. This case involves caste-based assault, abuse, and intimidation linked to an electoral dispute.

Facts of the case

In this case, on November 26, 2024, a First Information Report (FIR) was filed by Kiran, a member of the Scheduled caste community, alleging that Rajkumar Jain and others had attacked him and his family after he refused to cast a vote as directed in the Assembly elections. According to the complaint, the accused attacked him with iron rods, abused him with his caste name, molested his mother and aunt, looted the *mangalsutra*, and threatened to burn their home with petrol bottles. The incident was witnessed by independent witnesses. The Additional Sessions judge at Paranda rejected anticipatory bail, noting clear casteist intent and corroboration. However, the Bombay High Court (Aurangabad Bench) reversed this decision, terming the case politically motivated, exaggerated, and inconsistent, and granted bail. This prompted an appeal before the Supreme Court.

Why is anticipatory bail barred under the SC/ST Act?

The Supreme Court underlined that Section 18 of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, categorically excludes the application of Section 438 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) (Section 482 of BNSS), which allows anticipatory bail. The Parliament has inserted this bar to protect victims from intimidation and to ensure effective prosecution.



GETTY IMAGES

Drawing upon precedents such as *State of M.P. vs Ram Krishna Balothia* (1995), *Vilas Pandurang Pawar vs State of Maharashtra* (2012), and *Prathvi Raj Chauhan vs Union of India* (2020), the court reiterated that offences under the Act form a distinct class tied to systemic untouchability and caste discrimination. The bar is constitutionally valid and does not violate Article 14 or 21 of the Constitution. Courts, the Bench clarified, cannot conduct a "mini-trial" at the bail stage and are only required to examine whether a prima facie case exists.

In this case, the use of caste slurs, the public nature of the assault, and the electoral motive made the offence squarely fall within the ambit of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, thereby ruling out anticipatory bail.

Key observations

The Bench clarified that insults and assaults that occur outside the complainant's house, in a manner visible to others, count as acts "within public view," a statutory requirement under Section 3(1)(r). It further noted that the attack was triggered by the complainant's voting choice, which attracted Section 3(1)(o) of the Act that criminalises coercion or retaliation in voting against SC/ST members. Independent witness accounts, recovery of weapons, and medical evidence strengthened the prosecution's case, making the High Court's dismissal of the FIR untenable. The court also cautioned High Courts against overstepping into evidence appreciation at the pre-arrest bail stage.

Ultimately, the Supreme Court cancelled the anticipatory bail, calling the High Court's order a "manifest error and jurisdictional illegality."

The way forward

The ruling reinforces that the SC/ST Act is not a procedural formality but a substantive shield to safeguard the dignity and security of vulnerable communities. The bar on anticipatory bail, although strict, is constitutionally sound because it addresses the very real threat of intimidation and retaliation against Dalit and tribal complainants.

Going forward, courts must respect the legislative intent of Section 18 and avoid diluting its force by treating allegations as exaggerated without trial, and apply the "*prima facie* test" strictly on the face of the FIR, without slipping into evidentiary analysis. The judgment also recognises that electoral retaliation against SC/ST voters carries broader implications for democratic participation and social justice.

The judgment strengthens accountability under the SC/ST Act and underscores that the rule of law must stand firmly on the side of protecting the most marginalised.

Vikram Karuna is an Assistant Professor at the School of Law, Justice & Governance, Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida

THE GIST

- The court cancels anticipatory bail in *Kiran vs Rajkumar Jivaraj Jain*, reaffirming that Section 18 of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 bars anticipatory bail for offences like caste-based assault, abuse, intimidation, and electoral retaliation.
- The judgment emphasises that courts must respect the bar on anticipatory bail, avoid mini-trials at the pre-arrest stage, and apply the *prima facie* test, reinforcing protection of vulnerable SC/ST communities and accountability for caste crimes.

What is 'involution' that is plaguing Chinese EV sector?

How is China tackling involution and price wars in its electric vehicle sector?

Kunal Shankar

The story so far:

For some years now, the Chinese economy has faced what has locally come to be called *nêijuân*, or an involution. It is a process in which rivals in certain sectors indulge in price wars, attempting to capture market share and clear out oversupply of goods. However, these price wars are counterproductive, as they reach thresholds where the retail price of the product is so low that even the production costs cannot be realised, pushing firms into losses. This has been most apparent lately in China's electric vehicle sector, so much so that China's President Xi Jinping has prescribed corrective measures in a recent article in *Qiushi*. This phenomenon is not new in China; a similar trend has been witnessed in the solar industry as well.

Where does the phrase "involution" originate from?

Involution is derived from the Latin phrase *involūtiōn-em,* meaning 'to turn inwards.' According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the earliest known use of the noun "involution" dates back to 1611, in the writings of lexicographer Randle Cotgrave. But the dictionary lists nine meanings for the noun, ranging from its usage in literature to mathematics and pathology. The term appears to have been popularised by American anthropologist Clifford Geertz in the 1960s. Geertz used "involution" in his 1969 book *Agricultural Involution: The Processes of Ecological Change in Indonesia* to describe a dynamic in Java's wet-rice (sawah) economy, where ever more labour and intricacy were packed into the same agro-ecological system, raising output per acre somewhat but not per person– so incomes stagnated even as effort and social complexity increased, according to a blurb of his book in the University of California Press website.

Have EU and U.S. tariffs exacerbated involution in the Chinese EV sector?

Yes, they have. The U.S. Section 301 tariffs on Chinese EVs, set at 100% (from 2024), along with higher duties on EV batteries and parts, effectively mean a trade embargo on Chinese EVs by the United States. Since October 30, 2024, the EU has imposed "countervailing duties" on Chinese EVs (e.g., BYD 17.0%, Geely 18.8%, SAIC -35%), on top of the standard 10% import duty. This is to ostensibly counter the "subsidies" provided by China to its EV sector. But, Europe's auto sector is at an inflection point with plummeting sales in its iconic brands as Europeans begin to buy the technologically superior Chinese EVs at highly competitive prices. The countervailing duties are a desperate attempt to save Europe's once export-heavy auto industry. The commission has also entertained talks on minimum price undertakings in 2025.

Turkiye added a 40% extra tariff on Chinese vehicles in 2024, and Mexico has moved toward a 50% tariff to head off U.S.-bound transshipment.

As a result, Chinese Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) intensified competition at home, fuelling price wars.

Industry leaders themselves have called this an "involution." Beijing has begun an anti-price-war push as top executives warn of severe consolidation among the 120-130 EV makers in the country.

OEMs are localising abroad (e.g., BYD in Hungary/Turkiye) and diversifying exports to emerging markets, but timelines and capacity ramps are uneven. Meanwhile, according to the International Energy Agency, Chinese imports accounted for 75% of the increase in EV sales across emerging economies outside China in 2024.

What is the Chinese government doing to rein in the process in the EV sector?

On May 31, the Chinese Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) assured to rein in involution in the EV sector. This was followed by June 30 news coverage in the Chinese media, which framed a Politburo communication as Mr. Xi's "war on price wars".

On July 24, Beijing released a draft overhaul of the pricing law to curb below-cost selling and algorithmic pricing abuses.

On Monday, Mr. Xi's article in *Qiushi,* the Chinese Communist Party's theoretical magazine, called for curbing "disorderly price competition" and an "orderly exit" of outdated capacity, the clearest sign yet that the Central government plans a phased slowdown of price wars.

THE GIST

- Rivals indulging in price wars to capture market share amid oversupply are pushing firms into losses, a trend worsened by U.S., EU, Turkiye, and Mexico tariffs.
- The Chinese Ministry of Industry and Information Technology and Xi Jinping have called for curbing disorderly price competition, enforcing below-cost selling restrictions, and ensuring an orderly exit of outdated capacity to rein in involution.

East corporation clears lake encroachment

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru East City Corporation has cleared encroachments at Chikkabellandur Lake in the Mahadevapura zone and reclaimed government land.

According to sources, Chikkabellandur Lake, located in Survey No. 9 of Chikkabellandur village, spans a total area of 67 acres and 14 guntas. A recent survey by the Revenue Department revealed that three guntas of the lake area had been illegally occupied by private individuals. The survey map identifying the encroached portion was handed over to the city corporation, which had earlier issued notices to the encroachers, ordering them to vacate the land. However, despite the notices, the encroachment remained uncleared.

Following this, City Corporation Commissioner D.S. Ramesh and Additional Commissioner (Development) Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar directed the Chief Engineer (Mahadevapura Zone-1) to initiate clearance operations.

Acting on the instructions, officials carried out the eviction drive and cleared the three guntas of encroached land.

Graduation day conducted

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BMS Institute of Technology and Management (BMSIT&M), Yelahanka, held its graduation day on Saturday, conferring BE degrees on 849 students and BE Honours on 16.

The top 10 achievers in each discipline were felicitated.

Aviram Sharma, president, BMSIT&M, urged graduates to apply their knowledge to life's challenges and promised continued support from the institution. principal Sanjay H.A. stressed lifelong learning and adapting to industry needs.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER NOTICE No. BE-29-2025-26-OT-11 (through E-Tendering)

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Action for the following work.

Name of Work	Approx.Value
Replacement of submersible pumps, lifting & lowering, rewinding of moters in Bengaluru division for a period of 2 years	Rs. 4116570

Last date for Submission of bids :
Upto 15:00 hrs on 30.09.2025

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Divisional Electrical Engineer/General/ Bengaluru

PUB/461/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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PUBLIC NOTICE

I, RAMESH REDDY.M, S/o.Venkata Krishna Reddy, aged about 62 years, Residing at No.5/125, Thurpu Street, Gudur, Nellore, Gudur Polytechnic, Andhra Pradesh-524101, have lost the following Original Sale Deeds & other related documents.

- Sale Deed dated 15.11.1995, which was registered as document No.2616/1995-96, Volume No.2041, Book-I, Page Nos.231 to 234, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Doddaballapura in respect of land bearing Sy No.22, Measuring 4A 13 Guntas & land bearing Sy No 21/3, Measuring 1A 03 Gunta in all measuring 5.00 A 16 Guntas both situated at Chokkanahalli Village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.
- Sale Deed dated 16.11.1995, which was registered as document No.2623/1995-96, Volume No.2042, Book-I, Page Nos.19 -22, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Doddaballapura in respect of land bearing Sy.No.20/3 measuring 30 Guntas, Land bearing Sy.No.21/2, measuring 32 Guntas, Land bearing Sy.No.21/5 measuring 11 Guntas and Sy.No.20/2 measuring 9 Guntas in all measuring 2.00 Acre 02 Guntas, all situated at Chokkanahalli Village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk.

The General public, are advised not to deal with the aforesaid lost documents in any manner and if found the same may be returned to the above-mentioned address.

(RAMESH REDDY.M
Contact No. 9444998624)

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number
1800 102 1878
Or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in

Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU | thehindu businessline. | FRONTLINE | SPORTSTAR | THE HINDU Young world | THE HINDU

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

P.M.POSHAN SHAKTHI NIRMAN(M.D.M) ZILLA PANCHYATH HASSAN

Est1.MDMFT-Tender:41/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.09.2025

e-TENDER PUBLISHMENT

Tender has been called from the registered Transporters for the year 2025-26 to transport food grains from 8 Taluks KFCSC Godawns of Hassan district to respective School cooking centers working under the programme P.M.Poshan Shakthi Nirman(M.D.M) Date and time to start of issuance of tender applications 15-09-2025, 11.00 AM Date and time of pre bid Meeting 29-09-2025, 11.30AM Last date and time to submit filled applications 14-10-2025, 5.30 PM Date and time of opening the Technical bid 16-10-2025, 11.00 AM Date and time of opening the Financial bid 21-10-2025, 11.00 AM E.M.D. Amount 2.5% OF TENDER AMOUNT (Rs.52.95 Lacs) Place of Opening the applications of Tender CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ZILLA PANCHAYAT,HASSAN Address and Contact number for applications and more information THE EDUCATION OFFICER, P.M.POSHAN SHAKTHI NIRMAN (M.D.M),ZILLA PANCHAYAT, HASSAN Mobile no:9482370363 E-MAIL ADRESS-eomdmhassan91@gmail.com

Sd/- CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ZILLA PANCHAYAT HASSAN

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/569/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have entered into an agreement to purchase the Schedule Property from its owners, **Smt.Nagalakshmi S.R W/o late C.Srinivas & her children, Sri.Manoharmal S/o Sri.Saremalji, Smt.Ramila P.Jain W/o Sri.Pankaj C.Jain and her son Sri.Kunal Pankaj Jain.**

The owners have represented that the Original copy of the WILL dated 06/08/1999, regd. as document No.141/1999-2000, in Book-III, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Basavanagudi, Bangalore, and another WILL dated 24/05/2007, both executed by Smt.Kamalamma W/o Sri.R.Changalarayappa is misplaced/lost and is not traceable. Further they represent that they have not deposited or handed over the said WILLS to any person/s or Bank and/or any authority and that they have a freehold subsisting marketable title to the Schedule property.

Apart from the said owners, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title, claim or interest or demand over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of agreement, sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying), with the undersigned within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the entire residential building comprised of three residential units/house premises bearing Municipal No.46/1 (PID No.50-1-46/1; New E-PID No.7176635152), No.46/1-1 (PID No.50-1-46/1-1; New E-PID No.9120026568) and No.46/1-2 (PID No.50-1-46/1-2; New E-PID No.6425217306), built on the land/property bearing Municipal No.46/1 (earlier part of Old No.46, before that Door No.265/314), measuring East to West 37 ft 9 inches and North to South 42 ft, totally measuring 1585.5 Sq.ft., along with an exclusive ownership over the common passage measuring East to West 42 ft and North to South 9ft, leading from South Eastern side of the aforesaid building to Middle School Road, situated at Middle School Road, Visweswarapuram, Bangalore, within the administrative jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Ward No.143 (Vishveshwarapuram Ward), and bounded on:

East by : Middle school road and Property of Sri.J.V.Ramachandra (now owned by Sri.Paras T.Chowatia),
West by : Conservancy,
North by : Property owned by Sri.Bharathraj Setty,
South by : Property owned by Sri.Lakshmana Swamy.

Sd/- S.F. GOUTAM CHAND, Advocate,
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES,
No.60, 2nd Floor, Old Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bengaluru - 560004

ಕೆನರಾ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ Canara Bank (A Government of India Undertaking)
Syndicate

Wilsongarden Branch : 376/21, T V Plaza H Siddaiah Road, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru.
Mail id: cb10419@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE TO BORROWER / GUARANTOR / MORTGAGOR

Notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

To,

Borrower : 1) Mr. Dinesh Kumar H S/O Hanumantharayappa
2. Mrs. Lakshmi Devi (Co-Borrower)
Both Are At :No 3, 5th Cross Vinayaknagar, Magadi Road Kamakshipalya,Basaveshwaranagar Bengaluru North-560079

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank, **Wilson garden Branch (10419)** (hereinafter referred to as "the secured creditor"), appointed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (hereinafter referred as the "Act") do hereby issue this notice to you as under:

That **Mr.DINESH KUMAR H AND MRS.LAKSHMI DEVI (hereinafter referred to as "the Borrower"1)** has availed credit facility / facilities stated in the Schedule A hereunder and has entered into the security agreement/s in favour of the secured creditor. While availing the said financial assistance, you have expressly undertaken to repay the loan amount/s in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above mentioned agreements.

You (The person mentioned in **schedule B**) are also entered in to agreements against the secured assets which are detailed in Schedule B hereunder.

However, from April 2025 the operation and conduct of the said financial assistance / credit facilities have become irregular. The books of account maintained by the secured assets shows that the liability of the Borrower towards the secured creditor as on date amounts to **Rs. 6,99,551.50 (Rupees Six Lakhs Ninty Nine Thousand Five Hundred And Fifty one And Paise Fifty only)** the details of which together with future interest rate are stated in **Schedule C** hereunder. It is further stated that the Borrower/Guarantor having failed to keep up with the terms of the above said agreement in clearing the dues of the secured creditor within the time given, and have been evasive in settling the dues. The operation and conduct of the above said financial assistance / credit facility/ies having come to a standstill and as a consequence of the default committed in repayment of principal debt/ installment and interest thereon, the secured creditor was constrained to classify the debt as **Non Performing Asset (NPA) as on 29.07.2025** in accordance with the directives/guidelines relating to asset classification issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

The secured creditor through this notice brings to your attention that the Borrower has failed and neglected to repay the said dues/ outstanding liabilities and hence hereby demand you under Section 13(2) of the Act, by issuing this notice to discharge in full the liabilities of the Borrower as stated in Schedule C hereunder to the secured creditor within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice. Further, it is brought to your notice that you are also liable to pay future interest at rates mentioned schedule C hereunder together with all costs, charges, expenses and incidental expenses with respect to the proceedings undertaken by the secured creditor in recovering its dues.

Please take note of the fact that if you fail to repay to the secured creditor the aforesaid sum of to **Rs. 6,99,551.50(Rupees Six Lakhs Ninty Nine Thousand Five Hundred And Fifty one And Paise Fifty only)** together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs as stated above in terms of this notice under Section 13(2) of the Act, the secured creditor will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub-section (4)(a) and (b) of Section 13, the extract of which is given here below to convey the seriousness of this issue:

13(4)- In case the Borrower/Guarantor fails to discharge liability in full within the period specified in sub-section (2), the secured creditor may take recourse to one or more of the following measures to recover his secured debt, namely;

(a) Take possession of the secured assets of the Borrower/Guarantor including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset;

(b) Take over the management of the business of the Borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset:

Provided that the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale shall be exercised only where the substantial part of the business of the Borrower is held as security for the debt;

Provided further that where the management of whole of the business or part of the business is severable, the secured creditor shall take over the management of such business of the borrower which is relatable to the security for the debt;

and under other applicable provisions of the said Act.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

You are also put on notice that in terms of section 13(13) the Borrower/Guarantor shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed in Schedule B hereunder without obtaining written consent of the secured creditor. It is further brought to your notice that any contravention of this statutory injunction/ restraint, as provided under the said Act, is an offence and if for any reason, the secured assets are sold or leased out in the ordinary course of business, the sale proceeds or income realized shall be deposited with the secured creditor. In this regard you shall have to render proper accounts of such realization / income.

This notice of Demand is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or remedies which the secured creditor may have including further demands for the sums found due and payable by you.

This is without prejudice to any other rights available to the secured creditor under the Act and/or any other law in force.

Please comply with the demand under this notice and avoid all unpleasantness. In case of Non- compliance, further needful action will be resorted to, holding you liable for all costs and consequence.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

schedule - A

SL NO	Loan No	Nature of Loan/ Limit	Date of Sanction	Amount
1.	04199830000113	SYND MORTGAGE	15.11.2018	Rs.8,00,000
2.	164000690051	HOME LOAN PLUS	18.06.2021	Rs.80,000

schedule - B : IMMMOVABLE

Details of Security Assets : All that piece and parcel of Northern portion of the Property bearing Muncipal No.3,PID No.17-40-3,(New PID No.102-W0249-11),Situated at 5th Cross,Magadi Main road, Kamakshipalya, Bengaluru - 560079, measuring East to West 25 Ft and North to south 30Ft,Totally measuring 750 Sq.Ft ,along with Residential building standing there on and bounded as follows : **Easy by :** Road, **West by :** Private property, **North by :** Private property, **South by** : Remaining southern portion of the property bearing Site No.3,measuring 25*25 Ft.
Name Of Title Holder: Sri.H Dinesh Kumar

schedule - C

SL NO	Loan No	Nature of Loan/ Limit	Liability with interest	RATE OF INTEREST (Inclusive of penal interest)
1.	04199830000113	SYND MORTGAGE	Rs. 6,93,270.50	13.95
2.	164000690051	HOME LOAN PLUS	Rs.6281.00	12.05

Place : Bangalore
Date : 15.09.2025

Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No.
SWRSBCMEDLPIREPS2025 Dated 09.09.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Name of Work	Approx.Value
Empanelment of suppliers for local purchase of all types of Medicines of Medical stores of Divisional Railway Hospital Bengaluru for a period of 2 years	Rs. 13511584/-

Last date for Submission of bids :
Upto 15.00 hrs on 10.10.2025

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Chief Medical Superintendent, Bengaluru

PUB/460/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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PUBLIC NOTICE

That my client **Mrs. Reshma Tabassum,** D/o. Shaheda Begum and late Afsar, No.11, 11th Cross, Sattar Layout, Lakkasandra, Bangalore-560027, had lost the original Sale Deed dated: 16-08-1973, registered as document No.1542/1973-74 of Book-1, Pages 97 to 99, Volume 226, Sub-Registrar, Jayanagar, Bangalore, in respect of the Schedule Property and lodged complaint to the concerned Police authorities vide Lost Article Report No. 1787666/2025, dated: 06-09-2025.

That my client hereby request the General Public that if the said documents are traced by them, kindly return to my client or her said Advocate.

SCHEDULE PROPERY

Site No.44, Sy.No.91/, Lakkasandra, Bangalore, measuring East to West: 15 feet and North to South:45 feet, and bounded on the:
East by : Road,
West by : Private Property,
North by : Private Property,
South by : Road,

A. MANJUNATH, B.Com., LLB, Advocate
Office: No.924, 28th Main, 9th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore -560 069.
Phone : 9845395528

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE ADDL. CIVIL JUDGE (SR.DIV.)-I, G. B. NAGAR
Civil Suit No 87of 2023

1.Rahul Kumar S/o Late Shri Satyaprakash, R/o D/57, 1" Floor, Sector-55 Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar.
2.Smt. Sunita Chourasia W/o Shri Pradeep Chourasia, R/o Bhuwan Roy Lane, Puruliya Municipality, Ward No. 16, Puruliya (West Bengal) 723101
......**Plaintiffs**

Versus

3.Smt. Sangeeta Chourasia W/o Shri Deepak Chourasiya, R/o Bhuwan Roy Lane, Puruliya Municipality, Ward No. 16, Puruliya (West Bengal) 723101
13.Sh. Sanjeev Sabharwal S/o Shri Shyam Sabharwal, R/o B-41, 1" Floor, Swami Nagar South, New Delhi-110017
14. Joseph Henry Brown, R/o H. No. 132/7, 3rd Floor, E-Cross, Papaya Logout, Kasturi Nagar Bengaluru, Karnataka-560043
......**Defendants**

A suit has been filed by the plaintiffs for a decree of partition, possession, declaratory and permanent injunction. For which the hearing and objections are to be held on **28.10.2025** at 10:00 a.m.. the court or through a lawyer who has been made aware of the circumstances of the case and who is capable of answering the case in all respects, should appear and claim accountability. You are required to present all your documents on the same day on which you want to use your accountability. You are informed that if you do not appear on the said date, then the case will be dismissed and decided without your presence. Issued today of and seal of the court. 10.092025 with my signature

By Order
Additional Civil Judge (SD)-I
Gautam Buddha Nagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client intends to purchase all the piece and parcel of the land bearing Plot No. 29/A, 2nd Cross, Electronic City Phase I (earlier part of Konappana Agrahara, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bengaluru – 560 100, P.I.D. No. 034, admeasuring a total of 1.26 Acres or 50.04 Guntas or 54885.60 square feet with a building comprising of basement, ground floor, and five upper floors and a Terrace Floor, along with an ancillary building and a security building, in all measuring a Gross Built-Up area of 10,749.54 sq.mts or 1,15,707.13 square feet morefully described in the schedule hereunder its owners M/s Zest Infraway Private Limited, having its registered office at M/1 to M/3, BCM Heights, PU-4, Scheme No.54, Indore – 452 010 and its Branch office at BCM One, No. 40, Tudor Court, Lavelle Road, Bangalore 560 001, rep. by its Director and authorized signatory, Mr. Rohit Mehta. The Owner represents that it is the absolute owners of the Schedule Property having valid, subsisting and good marketable, right, title and interest therein and apart from Owner, there are no other person(s) or company(ies) or third party(ies) having any right, title, claim or interest over the Schedule Property. The Owner further represent that it has not entered into any Agreement(s)/Memorandum of Understanding (s) of any kind, nor has it mortgaged, charged, encumbered, or otherwise created any, third-party rights, interests, or lien in respect of the Subject Property, save and except the subsisting mortgage created with HDFC Bank registered under document No. 00303/2023-24 and 01865/2025-26 w.r.t the Schedule Property or any portion thereof in any manner. Any person/s claiming to have any sort of right, title, claim, interest, lien, agreement, charge, or any objection/s, shall with documentary evidence lodge their objection/s or claims within Seven (07) days from the date of this Notice with the Undersigned. If no such objections/claims are received within the aforesaid period, my Client shall proceed with the proposed purchase of the Schedule Property on the basis that the Owner is the absolute owner thereof, free from all encumbrances other than those disclosed herein, and that all objections/ claims not received within the prescribed time shall be deemed to have been waived, abandoned and not binding on my Client.

Schedule Property

All that piece and parcel of the land bearing Plot No. 29/A, 2nd Cross, Electronic City Phase I (earlier part of Konappana Agrahara, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bengaluru – 560 100, P.I.D. No. 034, admeasuring a total of 1.26 Acres or 50.04 Guntas or 54885.60 square feet with a building comprising of basement, ground floor, and five upper floors and a Terrace Floor, along with an ancillary building and a security building, in all measuring a Gross Built-Up area of 10,749.54 sq.mts or 1,15,707.13 square feet and bounded on the:
East By : Road; **West By :** Plot No. 29/B;
North By : Plot No. 28; and **South By :** Road.

Hari Prasad C Reddy, Advocate,
MVCR & Co.
No. 3 & 4, First Floor, HHS HMS Complex (Silk exchange Building) Cubbonpet Main Road, Bengaluru 560 002:
legaledgeadvocates@gmail.com

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ

(www.kpwd.gov.in)

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ನಂ.2, ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ವಿಭಾಗ, 1ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ,
ಲೋ.ಇ. ಪೂರಕ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ವೃತ್ತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು. ದೂ: 080 22220227
E-Portal : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home

Expression of Interest ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08/2025–26
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11–09–2025

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ನಂ2 ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ–2000ರನ್ವಯ **Expression of Interest for Empanelment of Consultants for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR), Design and Proof Checking of Structures, Project Management Consultancy (PMC) and Third Party Inspection for Quality Control Services** ಅನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/) ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

Expression of Interest ಪ್ರೋಸಸಿಂಗ್ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇಎಂಡಿ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

1. **Expression of Interest** ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 11.09.2025 ರಿಂದ 29.09.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
2. **Expression of Interest** ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 29.09.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
3. **Expression of Interest** ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ:30.09.2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಕ್ಕೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/) ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ನಂ.2ನೇ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

DIPR/CP/2806/Zen/2025-26

ಕೆನರಾ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ Canara Bank (A Government of India Undertaking)
Syndicate

NANDI DURGA ROAD BRANCH : #47, Nandi Mahal, Nandi Durga Road, Bengaluru - 560046.
cb0793@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE TO BORROWER / GUARANTOR / MORTGAGOR

Notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

To,

Borrower : 1. Mr. Nagaraju T N S/o Narasimha Murthy T S
2. Mrs. Mahalakshmi D N W/o Nagaraju
Both area at : No. 239, Marisidhaiahna Palya, T B Cross, Kodagi Thirumalapura, Hesaraghatta Lake, Bangalore- 560089

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **Canara Bank, Nandi Durga Road Branch** (hereinafter referred to as "the secured creditor"), appointed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assetsand Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (hereinafter referred as the "Act") do hereby issue this notice to you as under:

That **Mr. Nagaraju T N, and Mrs. Mahalakshmi D N (BORROWER AND CO-BORROWER)** has availed credit facility / facilities stated in the Schedule A hereunder and has entered into the security agreement/s in favour of the secured creditor. While availing the said financial assistance, you have expressly undertaken to repay the loan amount/s in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above mentioned agreements.

You have also entered in to agreements against the secured assets which are detailed in Schedule B hereunder.

However, from **28-05-2025**, the operation and conduct of the said financial assistance / credit facilities have become irregular. The books of account maintained by the secured creditor shows that the liability of the Borrower towards the secured creditor as on **28-08-2025** amounts to **Rs 28,52,022.52 (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakhs Fifty Two Thousand Twenty Two and Paisa Fifty Two Only)** the details of which together with future interest rate are stated in Schedule C hereunder. It is further stated that the Borrower/Co Borrower having failed to keep up with the terms of the above said agreement in clearing the dues of the secured creditor within the time given, and have been evasive in settling the dues. The operation and conduct of the above said financial assistance / credit facility/ies having come to a standstill and as a consequence of the default committed in repayment of principal debt/ instalment and interest thereon, the secured creditor was constrained to classify the debt as **Non Performing Asset (NPA) as on 27-08-2025** in accordance with the directives/guidelines relating to asset classification issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

The secured creditor through this notice brings to your attention that the Borrower has failed and neglected to repay the said dues/ outstanding liabilities and hence hereby demand you under Section 13(2) of the Act, by issuing this notice to discharge in full the liabilities of the Borrower as stated in Schedule C hereunder to the secured creditor within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice. Further, it is brought to your notice that you are also liable to pay future interest at the rates mentioned in "Schedule-C"together with all costs, charges, expenses and incidental expenses with respect to the proceedings undertaken by the secured creditor in recovering its dues. Please take note of the fact that if you fail to repay to the secured creditor the aforesaid sum of Rs 28,52,022.52 (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakhs Fifty Two Thousand Twenty Two and Paisa Fifty Two Only)together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs as stated above in terms of this notice under Section 13(2) of the Act, the secured creditor will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub-section (4)(a) and (b) of Section 13, the extract of which is given here below to convey the seriousness of this issue:

13(4)- In case the Borrower/Co-Borrower fails to discharge liability in full within the period specified in sub-section (2), the secured creditor may take recourse to one or more of the following measures to recover his secured debt, namely;

(a) Take possession of the secured assets of the Borrower/Co-Borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset;

(b) Take over the management of the business of the Borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset:

Provided that the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale shall be exercised only where the substantial part of the business of the Borrower is held as security for the debt;

Provided further that where the management of whole of the business or part of the business is severable, the secured creditor shall take over the management of such business of the borrower which is relatable to the security for the debt;

and under other applicable provisions of the said Act.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

You are also put on notice that in terms of section 13(13) the Borrower/Co-Borrower shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed in Schedule B hereunder without obtaining written consent of the secured creditor. It is further brought to your notice that any contravention of this statutory injunction/ restraint, as provided under the said Act, is an offence and if for any reason, the secured assets are sold or leased out in the ordinary course of business, the sale proceeds or income realized shall be deposited with the secured creditor. In this regard you shall have to render proper accounts of such realization / income.

This notice of Demand is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or remedies which the secured creditor may have including further demands for the sums found due and payable by you.

This is without prejudice to any other rights available to the secured creditor under the Act and/or any other law in force.

Please comply with the demand under this notice and avoid all unpleasantness. In case of Non- compliance, further needful action will be resorted to, holding you liable for all costs and consequence.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

schedule - A

SL NO	Loan No	Nature of Loan/ Limit	Date of Sanction	Amount
1.	0793630000001	HOUSING LOAN	28/12/2018	Rs. 27,00,000/-

schedule - B

Details of Security Assets : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing House No. 93, V P Khatha No. 317/93, PID No. 150200202700200560 situated at Kodagi Thirumalapura, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and now property under the revenue limits of Hurulichikkanahalli and sital area measuring about East to West 32 feet or 9.7536 mtrs and North to South 18 feet or 5.48640 mtrs and totally measuring about 576 sq feet or 53.512 sq mtrs and bounded on the: **East by:** Remaining land, **West by:** Government road, **North by:** Property belongs to Narasappa and **South by:** Road and property belongs to Narasimhamurthy.
Name Of Title Holder: Mr. Nagaraju T N

schedule - C

SL NO	Loan No	Nature of Loan/ Limit	Liability with interest as on 28.08.2025	RATE OF INTEREST (Inclusive of penal interest)
1.	0793630000001	HOUSING LOAN	Rs. 28,52,022.52	11.10%

Place : Bangalore
Date : 15.09.2025

Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

ಕೆನರಾ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ Canara Bank (A Government of India Undertaking)
Syndicate

MAJESTIC BRANCH : World Trade Centre, FKCCI Building, K G Road, Bengaluru.
Mail id: cb0412@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE TO BORROWER / GUARANTOR / MORTGAGOR

Notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

To,

Borrower : 1. Mr. Venkatesh R, S/o B R Ramara Raju
2 . Mrs. P Sarvamangala (Co Borrower), W/o Venkatesh R
Both are at : No.15, 7th Cross, Near Indian Bank, Cubbonpet, Bengaluru - 560002.

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **Canara Bank, Majestic Branch (412)** (hereinafter referred to as "the secured creditor"), appointed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assetsand Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (hereinafter referred as the "Act") do hereby issue this notice to you as under:

That **Mr. Venkatesh R And Mrs. P Sarvamangala** has availed credit facility / facilities stated in the Schedule A hereunder and has entered into the security agreement/s in favour of the secured creditor. While availing the said financial assistance, you have expressly undertaken to repay the loan amount/s in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above mentioned agreements.

You (The person mentioned in schedule B) are also entered in to agreements against the secured assets which are detailed in Schedule B hereunder.

However, from **15.05.2025** the operation and conduct of the said financial assistance / credit facilities have become irregular. The books of account maintained by the secured assets shows that the liability of the Borrower towards the secured creditor as on date amounts to **Rs. 18,35,141.81 (Rupees Eighteen lakhs Thirty five thousand one hundred forty one and paise eighty one only)** the details of which together with future interest rate are stated in Schedule C hereunder. It is further stated that the Borrower/Guarantor having failed to keep up with the terms of the above said agreement in clearing the dues of the secured creditor within the time given, and have been evasive in settling the dues. The operation and conduct of the above said financial assistance / credit facility/ies having come to a standstill and as a consequence of the default committed in repayment of principal debt/ installment and interest thereon, the secured creditor was constrained to classify the debt as **Non Performing Asset (NPA) as on 15.08.2025** in accordance with the directives/guidelines relating to asset classification issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

The secured creditor through this notice brings to your attention that the Borrower has failed and neglected to repay the said dues/ outstanding liabilities and hence hereby demand you under Section 13(2) of the Act, by issuing this notice to discharge in full the liabilities of the Borrower as stated in Schedule C hereunder to the secured creditor within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice. Further, it is brought to your notice that you are also liable to pay future interest at rates mentioned schedule C hereunder together with all costs, charges, expenses and incidental expenses with respect to the proceedings undertaken by the secured creditor in recovering its dues.

Please take note of the fact that if you fail to repay to the secured creditor the aforesaid sum of to **Rs. 18,35,141.81 (Rupees Eighteen lakhs Thirty five thousand one hundred forty one and paise eighty one only)** together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs as stated above in terms of this notice under Section 13(2) of the Act, the secured creditor will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub-section (4)(a) and (b) of Section 13, the extract of which is given here below to convey the seriousness of this issue:

13(4)- In case the Borrower/Guarantor fails to discharge liability in full within the period specified in sub-section (2), the secured creditor may take recourse to one or more of the following measures to recover his secured debt, namely;

(a) Take possession of the secured assets of the Borrower/Guarantor including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset;

(b) Take over the management of the business of the Borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset:

Provided that the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale shall be exercised only where the substantial part of the business of the Borrower is held as security for the debt;

Provided further that where the management of whole of the business or part of the business is severable, the secured creditor shall take over the management of such business of the borrower which is relatable to the security for the debt;

and under other applicable provisions of the said Act.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

You are also put on notice that in terms of section 13(13) the Borrower/Guarantor shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed in Schedule B hereunder without obtaining written consent of the secured creditor. It is further brought to your notice that any contravention of this statutory injunction/ restraint, as provided under the said Act, is an offence and if for any reason, the secured assets are sold or leased out in the ordinary course of business, the sale proceeds or income realized shall be deposited with the secured creditor. In this regard you shall have to render proper accounts of such realization / income.

This notice of Demand is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or remedies which the secured creditor may have including further demands for the sums found due and payable by you.

This is without prejudice to any other rights available to the secured creditor under the Act and/or any other law in force.

Please comply with the demand under this notice and avoid all unpleasantness. In case of Non- compliance, further needful action will be resorted to, holding you liable for all costs and consequence.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

schedule -A

SL NO	Loan No	Nature of Loan/ Limit	Date of Sanction	Amount
1.	0412605000007	CANARA MORTGAGE	31.10.2017	Rs.35,00,000

schedule - B

Details of Security Assets : All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing old No.4 presently Municipal No.15 PID No.77-115-15 situated at 7th Cross,Cubbonpet,Bangalore measuring East to West 42 feet and North to south 24.7 feet in all measuring 1034 Sft along with building measuring about 2900 sft and bounded on the **East by :** Basappa's property, **West by :** Passage 7th cross, Cubbonpet, **North by :** Syed Murthaz's property and **South by :** Narayanappa's property.
Name Of Title Holder: Mr.R Venkatesh and Mrs. P Sarvamangala

schedule - C

SL NO	Loan No	Nature of Loan/ Limit	Liability with interest	RATE OF INTEREST (Inclusive of penal interest)
1.	0412605000007	CANARA MORTGAGE	Rs.18,35,141.81	14.20%

Place : Bangalore
Date : 16.09.2025

Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

CACHE

The conduct of social media companies amid political unrest

Companies stay largely passive during such unrest; their reluctance to deploy technological workarounds or challenge government orders shows the tension between profit motives and digital rights

Vasudevan Mukunth

While the insurrection in Nepal – which ousted the K.P. Sharma 'Oli' government after two days and descended into widespread violence and mob behaviour – raises important questions about the country's political future, it should also raise concerns about the conduct of social media (SM) companies. In the immediate sense, the protests began after the Sharma government banned access to 26 SM platforms, but a zoomed-out view reveals a new instance of a more familiar pattern.

Specifically, the companies whose services became the spark offered little more than boilerplate statements about respecting digital rights and calls for dialogue. For the millions of people suddenly finding themselves cut off, that passivity could have heightened the abandonment they were already experiencing at the hands of their government.

This 'strategy' isn't unique to Nepal, however. In Russia in 2018, Telegram fought its ban through technical evasions but offered little political solidarity to users who faced arrest for circumventing state orders. During the 2021 coup in Myanmar, a Facebook ban severed access to news and organising tools for protestors. In Nigeria in the same year, Twitter (now X.com) remained largely silent when the government suspended its operations for months, costing the economy roughly $26 million a day and pushing many businesses to alternative platforms. In Iran in 2022, Instagram and WhatsApp issued generic appeals while millions of small businesses that depended on them collapsed.

All these instances recall the fact that platforms are multinational corporations whose interests are commercial, not civic. They fear government reprisal in profitable markets, yet they trade on the image of empowering free expression. When confronted with authoritarian restrictions, they have attempted to split the difference, issuing statements while avoiding meaningful confrontation. Ultimately, however, the users have borne the risk while the platforms have continued to profit.

GETTY IMAGES

Technological solutions

The reluctance to act is only partly explained by jurisdiction. These companies operate at the pleasure of host states and their executives may face legal or even personal jeopardy if they openly encourage citizens to defy local law. However, there's an equally (if not more) pressing moral stake: when governments impose sweeping shutdowns or demand opaque surveillance, they're not enforcing neutral regulations but attacking the basic infrastructure of civic life. And when platforms stay passive, they can become complicit in that attack.

International norms already recognise access to digital spaces as a right rather than a privilege. In 2016, the UN Human Rights Council declared internet shutdowns to be violations of international law. Civil society groups have since advanced the Santa Clara Principles on Transparency and Accountability in Content Moderation, which call for companies to disclose government demands and justify their responses. Big Social firms like Meta and Google often sign on to these frameworks in principle, yet their actual conduct in markets facing repression has maintained a gulf between rhetoric and compliance.

There's an important technological dimension here. Companies have the capacity to provide workarounds in the form of decentralised infrastructure, redundancy across services, and active support for circumvention tools – yet rarely deploy them for fear of provoking government retaliation. Even when a company offers them, they tend to be limited and the company withdraws them quietly once the relevant crisis has passed.

Most of the Big Social platforms are designed as centralised services in which requests are routed through data centres under company control. As a result, they're vulnerable to blunt government orders to, say, block a handful of IP ranges. These companies can make a technical as well as political choice by switching to a decentralised architecture that will make it difficult to enforce bans. For example, Tor and I2P networks route traffic across volunteer nodes. Mastodon uses federated servers rather than a single server that also becomes a choke point in the event of a blocking order. Signal has experimented with proxy relays that allow volunteers to keep traffic moving even when direct access has been blocked. Mainstream companies like Meta or Google could, in principle, design fallback modes that lean on decentralisation.

Google does have its Outline VPN toolkit and YouTube has content delivery networks that can disguise traffic – but these are exceptions. Generally, decentralisation and redundancy have been underdeveloped because companies don't want to be seen as actively undermining sovereign regulation and governments.

Fortunes of Big Social

Big Social's selective restraint is also stark in comparison with other industries. Telecom companies are often compelled to shut down networks immediately after a government order, yet unlike them, SM firms market themselves as defenders of voice and participation. Financial companies have also shown more willingness to take explicit political stands. PayPal and Visa curtailed services in Russia after the Ukraine invasion, citing ethical concerns. Even Wikipedia fought a multi-year legal battle against Turkey's ban (and Indian litigants' attempts to do so), eventually winning out. These examples suggest neutrality is not preordained but a corporate choice.

Many Big Social firms also own multiple platforms – e.g., Meta operates Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp and Google operates YouTube, Gmail, and so on. Technologies exist to allow them to fail-over messages from one app to another or to automatically route traffic through less visible protocols when one channel is blocked. For example, WhatsApp could piggyback on HTTPS traffic in ways that are harder to filter.

SM bans in recent history have all tended to fail because they always lead to less, not more, state control. When a ban kicks in, many users respond by shopping for workarounds and almost always succeed, using circumvention tools like VPNs and proxies like Psiphon or Snowflake. But instead of letting them fend for themselves, platforms could integrate such tools directly – e.g., by offering an in-app VPN or proxy mode – or subsidise the use of such services in affected regions. Signal's partnership with volunteers to host proxies in Iran in 2022 is one precedent.

The under-deployment of circumvention tools is also about profit. Decentralised or proxy-based systems complicate moderation, reduce the precision of data collection, and thus cut into advertising revenue. Federated networks such as Mastodon and volunteer relay models like Tor thrive because they aren't beholden to ad-driven monetisation. Mainstream platforms avoid such architectures not because they're technically infeasible but because they disrupt the business model of targeted advertising and centralised control. The technological debate is thus inseparable from the economic logic of surveillance capitalism.

The passivity of Big Social is also striking in another dimension: some of these firms command annual revenues larger than the GDP of the very states that move to restrict them. In 2023, Meta's revenues exceeded $134 billion – more than the entire national budgets of countries like Nepal or Nigeria. Google's parent Alphabet reported more than $300 billion, putting it ahead of most economies in the Global South. These figures suggest the claim of being "helpless" before sovereign diktats is not strictly financial. These firms wield capital, lobbying power, and technical expertise on a scale that many governments can't match. Yet in moments of crisis, they rarely leverage this power to defend the citizens who sustain their markets.

Even when companies experiment with workarounds, they're often withdrawn soon after. Facebook once tested "Free Basics" and similar initiatives for low-bandwidth access but dropped them amid political controversies.

Equally significant are the inequities that shutdowns create. Wealthier, more technically savvy users can usually find workarounds through VPNs, but poorer citizens are left offline. In such contexts, the withdrawal of mainstream platforms doesn't reduce risks but multiplies them: people drift to insecure alternatives, become more vulnerable to scams, and lose access to trusted sources of information. The result is a digital divide that widens precisely when a society faces a great civic emergency.

Political economy of dependence

Technological restraint is not because solutions are infeasible but because deploying them amounts to taking sides, which in turn carries business risks such as market exclusion, fines, and perhaps even arrests. Most firms are unwilling to absorb these costs.

To its advantage, however, the Global South provides some of the fastest-growing user bases and advertising markets for Big Social. India alone accounts for more than 400 million Facebook users, and Indonesia, Nigeria, and Brazil are all among the top 10 markets. That exposure gives governments significant leverage because companies fear being locked out of billion-dollar ad markets more than they fear reputational harm abroad. As a result they avoid confrontation in regions where their market share is greatest while projecting a bolder stance in the U.S. or Europe.

The Nepal case thus also serves a reminder that countries should make stronger demands of companies. For example, companies must prepare technical contingencies to keep communications alive during politically motivated shutdowns – whether through redundancy, encrypted alternatives or partnerships with circumvention tools. They should also adopt clearer policies on when and how they will resist demands for censorship and should disclose these decisions promptly. And at the political level, rather than claim to be neutral in the face of political turmoil, they should lend weight to international pressure by speaking up when people's rights are curtailed.

One way forward could be to make transparency and resilience non-negotiable. Companies should be required to publish, in real time, the shutdown orders they receive, their legal justifications, and their corporate responses.

Industry-wide agreements could set minimum standards for technical contingencies, such as in-app proxy modes or fallback networks, like how financial regulators subject banks to stress tests. Regional blocs such as the African Union and SAARC could also negotiate common demands, making it harder for firms to play one government against another.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

Upendran

"... they kept on arguing. They just wouldn't stop."

"Knowing Sujatha and Ramesh that's not surprising. They never climb down."

"Climb down? Climb down from where?"

"When you have an argument or a dispute and you climb down, it means you admit or accept that you are in the wrong. For example, when all the facts were presented to the Minister, he was willing to climb down."

"Impossible!"

"What do you mean?"

"No Minister in India ever climbs down."

"That's true. Here's another example. The scientists were forced to climb down after being presented with the evidence."

"Ramesh never climbs down no matter what the evidence is."

"Neither does Sujatha. She never climbs down however strong the arguments against her."

"You have said it there."

"By the way 'climb down' is an informal expression."

"I see. Ramesh and Sujatha make interesting OPponents, don't they?"

"They certainly do. O..p..p..o..n..e..n..t is pronounced OP'ponent. The 'o' in the first syllable and the 'e' in the final syllable sound like the 'a' in 'China'. The 'o' in the second syllable is pronounced like the 'o' in words like 'go', 'so', and 'no'. And the stress is ...."

" .... is on the second syllable 'po'. I suppose."

"Exactly! I think you'd better leave. I have to leave for the office pretty early tomorrow."

"What are your office timings?"

"O! We usually work between 8:30 and 5:00."

"8:30 and 5:00! My father's office timings are .... That reminds me. I was looking up something in my dictionary the other day and I was surprised to find that the word 'timings' was not included in it."

"That's because the word 'timings' does not exist in British or American English. I think it is an Indian invention."

"You mean it's just like the word 'prepone'? Everybody in India uses this word, but it's not included in any dictionary."

"That's right. All dictionaries include the word 'timing', but I haven't come across any dictionary which includes 'timings'."

"I see. What do native speakers say then?"

"Well, instead of saying 'What are your office timings?', they usually say 'What are your office hours?'."

"But what if it's not an office?"

"In that case, the usual question is 'What are your working hours?'."

"How about 'What are your business hours'."

"Sounds good to me."

Published in The Hindu on February 10, 1998

THE DAILY QUIZ

On the anniversary of Mahsa Amini's death, test your knowledge of her case, the protests it sparked, and the history of Iran's hijab laws

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Prathmesh Kher

QUESTION 1
What action sparked the 1979 International Women's Day protests in Tehran, just a month into the Iranian Revolution?

QUESTION 2
Under whose presidency was the Guidance Patrol (Gasht-e Ershad) formally created to enforce hijab and morality codes?

QUESTION 3
Under Article 638 of the 1983 Islamic Penal Code, what punishments were prescribed for women appearing in public without hijab?

QUESTION 4
Approximately how many protesters had been killed by security forces by December 2022, according to Iran Human Rights?

QUESTION 5
What is the slogan or movement name that arose from the protests ignited by her death?

Visual Question:
Identify the protest in this photograph taken by Iranian photographer Mohammad Sayyad.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Which was the first story the young Agatha Miller wrote while recovering from the flu? **Ans: 'The House of Beauty'**
2. In which full-length novels were readers introduced to Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple? **Ans: 'The Mysterious Affair at Styles' and 'The Murder at the Vicarage'.**
3. Which fictional Balkan nation makes an appearance in several stories? **Ans: Herzoslovakia**
4. One of the more eminent actors is said to have remarked, 'He is now!' when Christie's daughter Rosalind Hicks did not find the actor to be ideal for the role. **Ans: Peter Ustinov**
5. Name the highly intelligent ex-Army colonel who is introduced in 'The Man in the Brown Suit'. **Ans: Colonel Johnnie Rice**
6. Name the village where Miss Marple resides. **Ans: St. Mary Mead**
7. How are Thomas Beresford and his wife, Prudence (née Cowley), better known? **Ans: Tommy and Tuppence**
8. The films '*Gumnaam*' (Hindi), '*Nadu Iravil*' (Tamil), and '*Aatagara*' (Kannada) are all based on which Christie work? **Ans: 'And Then There Were None'**
Visual: Name the film icon on the right. **Ans: Sir Richard Attenborough**
Early Birds: Siddhartha Viswanathan | Piyali Tuli | Sunil Madhavan | Haridas Pal | Arun Kumar Singh

Word of the day

Doughty:
brave and persistent

Synonyms: fearless, confident, determined

Usage: *Our doughty colleague kept working late.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/doughtypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /daʊti/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Newly proposed 30% export duty will further hurt Karnataka's iron ore, steel sectors: FIMI

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

The low-grade iron ore has less iron content typically below 58%.
FILE PHOTO

The Union government's proposal to introduce 30% export duty on low-grade iron ore, up from 0% currently, effective from October, will only worsen the situation for both the mining and steel sectors in Karnataka, said the industry apex body, Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI) on Monday.

"The proposed 30% export duty on low-grade iron ore will worsen the situation, threatening both mining and steel production in Karnataka," S.S Hiremath, director FIMI (South), told *The Hindu*.

The Centre's recent proposal to impose a 30% export duty on low-grade iron ore, which has less iron content typically below 58% iron, coupled with Karnataka's outdated Maximum Permissible Annual Production (MPAP) cap, would stall the growth of mining industry by eroding revenues, and subsequently jeopardising livelihoods across mineral-rich States, he cautioned. He further said that Karnataka continued to remain the only mineral-rich State burdened with the MPAP cap, even though the regulatory environment has completely transformed over the last decade. On duty, he said iron ore exports have always attracted a 30%, however, low-grade iron ore exports have been under zero duty, until the government proposed a 30% export duty recently.

Interestingly, in May 2022, the government had imposed an export duty of 50% on low-grade iron ore, which was later withdrawn.

In 2011, a 15% export duty was imposed on the commodity and that was withdrawn and made it to zero in 2016, after the industry protested it. The new proposal is expected to come into effect in October.

If the Union government goes with the proposal then States are looking at a loss of over ₹16,000 crore with large swathes of the mining industry being rendered economically unviable and leading to widespread impact on livelihoods of almost half a million dependants, said Mr. Hiremath.

"If India is to achieve its ambitious economic and infrastructure goals, it is imperative that MPAP be removed entirely and that counterproductive export duties be reconsidered to unlock Karnataka's true potential as a key driver of the country's mineral and industrial growth," he added.

"This discriminatory MPAP restriction has stunted the growth of the State's iron ore sector, causing annual revenue losses of over ₹6,500 crore, leaving more than 220 million tonnes of resources untapped, and limiting job opportunities for the local population," Mr. Hiremath added.

'60% of deaths in India linked to lifestyle diseases'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sixty percent of deaths in India are caused by lifestyle-related diseases such as heart attacks, diabetes, stroke, cancer, and mental health disorders linked to screen addiction and loneliness, said C.N. Manjunath, MP and former Director of Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research here on Monday. "No nation can progress without addressing this silent epidemic," he said while speaking after receiving the Sir M. Visvesvaraya Award from the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry. He stressed that technology and engineering must be harnessed not only for industrial growth but also for public health, water security, and environmental sustainability-.Robotics in surgery and advances in medical technology can treat patients, but preventing disease requires better urban planning, pollution control, and sustainable engineering," he said.

DKS announces plan to open town planning college

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said on Monday that Bengaluru has not grown in a systematic way after Kempegowda, stressing the need for professional town planners to guide the city's growth.

During the 58th Engineers' Day and the 165th birth anniversary of M. Visvesvaraya, he announced that the government is considering setting up a new town planning college in Bengaluru to address the shortage of specialists.

Speaking at the event organised by The Institution of Engineers (India), Mr. Shivakumar said engineers are central to the city's development. "Today, officials from other engineering branches are being deputed to the Town Planning Department. We need experts to give the city a systematic form," he said. The Deputy Chief Minister highlighted Bengaluru's massive urban pressure, noting that 1.4 crore people live in the city, while 70 lakh commutes in and out daily. "Bengaluru has to withstand this. As a solution, I have initiated tunnel road projects. These are being criticised as money-making exercises, but I have continued my work," Mr. Shivakumar said. He also mentioned that there had been pressure to denotify the Bengaluru Business Corridor, but he resisted. "We are now building a 100-km-long road under this project," he said.

Calling engineers the builders of the nation, Mr. Shivakumar pointed out that Karnataka has around 300 engineering colleges producing nearly one lakh engineers every year, many of whom serve abroad.

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao felicitated outstanding engineers with the Sir M. Visvesvaraya Award in recognition of their contributions to urban development on Visvesvaraya Jayanti on Monday. A total of 13 engineers received the award.

GBA Commissioner said that if engineers work diligently and sincerely, public recognition will follow automatically. "Engineers must remain focused and not be distracted by criticism," Mr. Rao said.

Canara Bank's corporate website moved to secure domain

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Canara Bank on Monday announced that it migrated its corporate website to secure '.bank.in' domain, to comply with the Reserved Bank of India's directives. With this, the domain has been enabled with advanced security features, including IPv6 and DNSSEC, the bank said.

IPv6 provides the expanded IP address space and improved capabilities needed for the continued growth of the Internet. Meanwhile, the DNSSEC (Domain Name System Security Extensions) provides cryptographic authentication to DNS (domain name system) queries, preventing cyber attacks by ensuring integrity and authenticity of domain name.

TAMILNADU INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD (TIDCO)
CIN-U65993TN1965SGC005327

NOTICE NO. TIDCO / Projects / BIOTECH / 2025 **Date:16.09.2025**

Tamilnadu Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (TIDCO) intends to select a consulting firm for Preparation of Master Plan and Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Development of Biotech Industrial Park in Chengalpattu Taluk, Chengalpattu District, Tamilnadu in accordance with the Terms of Reference as set out in the Request for Proposal document.
Interested Consultants can download the RFP from the website **https://tntenders.gov.in** and **https://tidco.com.**
The schedule for processing the proposal is as follows: -

1. Pre-bid meeting on 29-09-2025 at 03.00 PM at TIDCO Office, Egmore, Chennai.
2. Last date and time for Submission of Proposals is on or before "23-10-2025 at 03.00 PM at TIDCO office, Egmore Chennai.
3. Opening of Technical Proposals/Bids is at 04.30 PM on 23.10.2025 at TIDCO Office.

MANAGING DIRECTOR
Tamilnadu Industrial Development Corporation Ltd
19-A, Rukmini Lakshmipathi Salai, Egmore, Chennai – 600 008
Ph: 044 - 2855 4421;
E-mail: **cmd@tidco.com, karthikeyan@tidco.com**; Website: **https://tidco.com.**

DIPR / 5101 / TENDER / 2025

RFP for Selection of Agency for Preparation of Neighbourhood Improvement Plan for Kankarbagh & Pataliputra areas in Patna
Govt. of Bihar
Urban Development and Housing Department
1stFloor, Vikas Bhawan, New Secretariat, Patna–800015
(Tel:0612-2215580,2215385;Fax:2217059,2231566;
Email: urbansec-bih@nic.in,
Website:https://state.bihar.gov.in/urban

1. Urban Development & Housing Department, Gov. of Bihar, invites proposals from eligible firms to select a consultant for Preparation of Neighbourhood Improvement Plan for Kankarbagh & Pataliputra areas in Patna.
2. Interested Consultancy Firms may download the complete Request for Proposals (RFP) Document, from website: **https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in or https://state.bihar.gov.in/urban.**

SN	PARTICULARS	DETAILS
1	Website for submission of proposal	www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in/
2	Mode of Submission	Online submission through eproc2 portal (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) and at the same time submission of Hard copies of Tender fee, Bid Security, payment proof, original copy of affidavit, declaration regarding Blacklisting and Power of Attorney as per RFP document at UD&HD office at Vikas Bhawan Patna
3	Last date and time for Submission of Technical Proposal on www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in	07-10 -2025 up to 05:00 PM
4	Date and time of Pre bid meeting	19-09-2025 by 12:00 PM Urban Development and Housing Department, Govt. of Bihar, 1st Floor, Vikas Bhawan, New Secretariat, Patna – 800015
5	Last date and time for Submission of Hard Copies (Tender fee, payment proof, original copy of affidavit, Blacklisting and Power of Attorney as per RFP document)	08-10-2025 up to 03:00 PM Urban Development and Housing Department, Govt. of Bihar,1st Floor, Vikas Bhawan, New Secretariat, Patna – 800015
6	Date and time of opening of Technical Bids	08-10-2025 at 03:30 PM
7	Date and time of opening of Financial Bids	Will be intimated later to successful bidders
8	Method of Selection	QCBS method of evaluation (weightage 70:30)

3. Agencies/ Firms may download the complete Request for Proposal (RFP) Document, from website: https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in or https://state.bihar.gov.in/urban.
4. For participating in e-RFP process, the applicant shall have to get them registered to get user ID Password and digital Signature. This will enable them to access the website- www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in and participate in e-tender. Those who are not registered in e-tendering systems, they may contact "e- procurement HELPDESK, Mjunction Services Limited, RJ Complex,2nd Floor, Canara Bank Campus, Khajpura, Ashiana Road, P.S.-Shastri Nagar, Patna -800014" (Toll Free Number:18005726571, Emal: eproc2support@bihar.gov.in) for registration.

For further details please visit : **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar**

PR- 014895 (Urban) 2025-26
Additional Secretary
Urban Development and Housing Department

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

RFP for Selection of Agency for the Preparation of Concept plan for Theme-based Greenfield City - Sitamarhi.
Govt. of Bihar
Urban Development and Housing Department
1stFloor, Vikas Bhawan, New Secretariat, Patna–800015
(Tel:0612-2215580,2215385;Fax:2217059,2231566;
Email: urbansec-bih@nic.in,
Website:https://state.bihar.gov.in/urban

1. Urban Development & Housing Department, Gov. of Bihar, invites proposals from eligible firms to select a consultant for Preparation of Concept plan for Theme-based Greenfield City - Sitamarhi.
2. Interested Consultancy Firms may download the complete Request for Proposals (RFP) Document, from **website: https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in or https://state.bihar.gov. in/urban.**

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2	Mode of Submission	Online submission through eproc2 portal (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) and at the same time submission of Hard copies of Tender fee, Bid Security, payment proof, original copy of affidavit, declaration regarding Blacklisting and Power of Attorney as per RF P document at UD&HD office at Vikas Bhawan Patna
3	Last date and time for Submission of Technical Proposal on www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in	07-10 -2025 up to 05:00 PM
4	Date and time of Pre bid meeting	19-09-2025 by 12:00 PM Urban Development and Housing Department, Govt. of Bihar, 1st Floor, Vikas Bhawan, New Secretariat, Patna – 800015
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For further details please visit : **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar**

PR- 014894 (Urban) 2025-26
Additional Secretary
Urban Development and Housing Department

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

RFP for Selection of Agency for Preparation of Comprehensive City Revitalization Plans including Central Business Districts (CBDs) & Historic Core for Sitamarhi
Govt. of Bihar
Urban Development and Housing Department
1stFloor, Vikas Bhawan, New Secretariat, Patna–800015
(Tel:0612-2215580,2215385;Fax:2217059,2231566;
Email: urbansec-bih@nic.in,
Website:https://state.bihar.gov.in/urban

1. Urban Development & Housing Department, Gov. of Bihar, invites proposals from eligible firms to select a consultant for Preparation of Comprehensive City Revitalization Plans including Central Business Districts (CBDs) & Historic Core for Sitamarhi.
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SN	PARTICULARS	DETAILS
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For further details please visit : **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar**

PR- 014896 (Urban) 2025-26
Additional Secretary
Urban Development and Housing Department

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

TEACHERS' DAY CELEBRATED

NPS, Kudlu celebrated Teachers' Day as a heartfelt tribute to Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan's vision, with Grade 9 leading the event and guiding juniors from Grades 6, 7 and 8 in showcasing leadership and responsibility. The programme featured music, dance, theatre and a lively twist where teachers became models, greeted with roaring cheers. A spirited Gen-Z quiz for millennial teachers added warmth and laughter, while the Principal's quiet guidance shaped the event. The celebration concluded with a fellowship luncheon hosted by the management, affirming gratitude and honour for teachers' enduring legacy.

'INNOVISTA' 2025

St. Claret School, Jalahalli hosted their Annual School Exhibition 'Innovista', showcasing the vibrant talents of various clubs and students. The Art and Craft section displayed striking monochrome images and canvas works inspired by renowned artists such as Vincent van Gogh, Frida Kahlo, S.H. Raza, Yayoi Kusama and Pablo Picasso. YantroMitra presented robotics projects including radar, blimp and IR sensors, while students demonstrated innovations like DC motors, solar energy models and wireless power transmission. Saplings and candles were also sold, promoting environmental awareness. The exhibition proved both enriching and successful for students and parents.

'AMALGAM' FUSION FIESTA

The Oxford English School (ICSE/ISC) hosted their Intra-School Cultural and Talent Fest, Amalgam – The Fusion Fiesta, bringing together students from ICSE/ISC, CBSE and State Board sections to showcase creativity across cultural, literary and artistic platforms. The event commenced with a lamp-lighting ceremony attended by Academic Lead Ms. Leela Lakshmi Raju and Principal Dr. Meenakshi K. Narayanan, followed by vibrant performances and competitions. Judges Mr. Deepak Srinivas, Ms. Padma Srinivas, Ms. Meghana and Ms. Ankitha commended the participants. The fest concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, marking a successful and spirited celebration.

For Subscription related queries, please contact Raghavendra Desai:
Handphone:+91 9986196254 | Email: desai.rnb@thehindu.co.in

Valmiki corporation case: CBI conducts raids in State, A.P.

The case involves allegations of embezzlement of funds earmarked for tribal communities; several associates of former Minister B. Nagendra, who resigned, and alleged beneficiaries of the diverted funds were covered during the raids

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday raided 16 premises in various parts of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh in connection with the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation case.

Several associates of former Minister B. Nagendra, who resigned in connection with the alleged scam, and alleged beneficiaries of the diverted funds were covered during the raids, but not Mr. Nagendra himself, sources said.

In a statement issued on Monday, the CBI has claimed funds from ST Welfare Department, which was then headed by Mr. Nagendra, were illegally transferred and through intermediaries eventually landed in the accounts of

A file photo of the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation office in Bengaluru.

associates and relatives of Mr. Nagendra, including his sister, brother-in-law, and personal assistant.

The CBI began the probe into the scam based on a complaint filed by Union Bank of India, where the corporation's account was maintained and funds diverted from. Furthermore, hearing a petition filed by Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal, MLA, the High Court has been monitoring the probe, the CBI said.

This July, the CBI sought the court's permission to expand the scope of the probe to include two other instances of alleged illegal fund transfer from the Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department, and Karnataka German Technical Training Institute (KGTTI), and was granted the same. The raids on Monday follow this, sources said.

"Investigation revealed that ₹2.17 crore of ST Welfare Department funds were transferred from the account maintained with Bank of Baroda through intermediary firms such as M/s SKR Infrastructure and Golden Establishment, into the account of Dhanalaxmi Enterprises belonging to Nekkanti Nagaraj, a close associate of Mr. Nagendra. Out of these funds, approximately ₹1.2 crore were further routed into the accounts of the associates and relatives of Mr. Nagendra, including his sister, brother-in-law, and personal assistant," the CBI alleged.

"In another instance, ₹64 lakh belonging to KGTTI were diverted from its account at Canara Bank to Sadguru Education Trust and Sadguru Solutions, thereafter to Skillpoint Training, and ultimately to entities such as Style Machine, before reaching N. Ravikumar (brother of Nekkanti Nagaraj) and N. Yashwanth Chowdhary (nephew of Nekkanti Nagaraj)," the CBI further alleged.

On Monday, the CBI raided several of these alleged beneficiaries. These include Mr. Nagendra's sister B. Sharada, brother-in-law D. Bharani Prasad, and the former Minister's PA K. Vishwanath. The Minister's close associate Nekkanti Nagaraj, his brother N. Ravikumar, nephew Yeshwanth Chowdhary were also raided. Apart from these, the residence of a Ballari BJP Councillor, allegedly linked to Nekkanti Nagaraj was also raided.

There is a conspiracy to weaken democracy through vote theft: Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, and Ministers K.H. Muniyappa and H.C. Mahadevappa at the International Day of Democracy celebrations in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said that there is an attempt to weaken democracy by some vested interests and it is the responsibility of all citizens to protect the Constitution and safeguard democracy in the country to ensure socio-economic justice to all.

Participating in the International Democracy Day programme here, Mr. Siddaramaiah said a "conspiracy to weaken the Constitution through vote rigging" was under way. He told the citizens to take a pledge against vote theft or rigging of elections.

He said there were many castes and religions in the country and the democratic system has been brought to maintain unity in diversity in a multicultural country. The real meaning of freedom would be realised only when people secured social, educational and economic freedom, the Chief Minister said.

On Dasara inauguration

Noting the BJP's protest against the inauguration of Mysuru Dasara by Kannada writer Banu Mushtaq, the Chief Minister said: "Everyone should practise tolerance and co-existence".

Referring to former MP for Mysuru Prathap Simha's opposition to Ms. Mushtaq, the Chief Minister said: "A former Lok Sabha member doesn't know what the Constitution means. Shall I call him a fool?" Mr. Siddaramaiah alleged that the BJP has been doing politics on caste and religion and defended the government's decision.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said that the 'My Vote My Right' campaign has been designed to create awareness about democratic values and develop leadership skills among youth. He participated in a bike rally from the Kanteerava stadium to the Vidhana Soudha.

Survey of sexual minorities commences

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

The State government on Monday set the ball rolling for what it claimed to be India's first survey of sexual minorities.

Some teething issues were observed on day one of the survey, which officials said would be sorted out.

The survey, which will be held at ART centres of government hospitals across Karnataka, aims to collect data, including housing, employment and education, among others, of the over 40,000-strong transgender community members of the State to form inclusive and targeted policies for them.

"The survey started at the taluk to district-level government hospitals of all

The sexual minority survey will be held at ART centres of government hospitals across Karnataka. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

31 districts. All survey enumerators are from the transgender community, so that the participants feel no difficulty in expressing themselves. The enumerators have been trained and provided tablets with SIM cards," said N. Mahesh Babu, managing director, Karnataka State Women's Development Corporation.

The survey will be held over 45 working days. District representatives have been deployed to monitor and evaluate the progress.

Sana Suman, member of the State committee executing the survey, explained that the survey questions are listed on an app installed in the tablets which the enumerators have been trained to operate.

"Some questions are objective types. Others go into more detail. The app has been designed to collect details regarding different aspects such as personal details, community details, education, employment, health, family background and so on. Around 125 questions have been listed," she said.

The first day of the survey, however, saw some teething issues. Network issues were reported at centres such as Bowring Hospital, as a result of which people who turned up could not participate. Some of the enumerators also struggled with operating the tablets.

Mr. Babu, who acknowledged the issues, however, promised that they have been solved.

Transgender rights organisations and activists welcomed the survey, but expressed reservations regarding the duration and location of the survey.

"Most of the community members make a day-to-day living. Going to hospitals to participate in the survey will mean loss of a whole day's income which many cannot afford. Instead, the details could have been collected by approaching the community members or by meeting them at places where they gather," said Monica T.G, a community member.

ASHAs to boycott caste census over 'unfair remuneration'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) across Karnataka have announced their decision to stay away from the socio-educational survey (caste census) being undertaken by the State Backward Classes Commission, citing the government's failure to ensure fair remuneration.

Members of the Karnataka Rajya Samyukta ASHA Karyakartheyara Sangha, affiliated to the All-India United Trade Union Centre (AIUTUC), have alleged that despite Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's announcement directing them to distribute survey forms door-to-door, no official order has been issued on the honorarium.

"Reports in the media suggested that each ASHA would be paid ₹2,000 for tasks such as distributing forms, preparing families to answer 60 survey questions, ensuring documents are ready, correcting errors, and uploading details to a mobile application. However, ASHA workers have repeatedly been denied compensation for such additional duties. Even during earlier government surveys, including those for the State's guarantee schemes, promised payments of ₹1,000 were never disbursed," said D. Nagalakshmi, State secretary of the sangha.

Besides, pending dues for surveys conducted on behalf of other departments also remain unpaid, she said.

Pointing out that the State government had promised a monthly honorarium of ₹10,000 for ASHAs from April 1 this year, she said even that commitment has not been implemented. "While anganwadi and mid-day meal workers received an increase of ₹1,000 in this year's budget, ASHAs were left out," she said.

K. Somashekar Yadgiri, sangha State president, said the survey work disrupts the regular activity-based incentive payments of ASHAs. "It is only fair that rural ASHA workers are paid ₹5,000 and urban ASHA workers, who cover more households, are paid at least ₹10,000," he said.

Provocative speech: Another FIR against Yatnal

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Three days after the Maddur police registered an FIR against MLA for Vijayapura, Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal, the Tumakuru town police on Saturday registered a *suo motu* case for his allegedly provocative and abusive speech.

While participating in a programme on September 13, ahead of Ganesha idol immersion in Tumakuru, Mr. Yatnal allegedly accused the government of helping only members of minority community for getting contracts and reservation.

Earlier, the Maddur town police registered an FIR against him after an allegedly provocative speech, also ahead of Ganesha idol immersion procession in the town in Mandya district on September 10.

Devadasi survey begins amid confusion over documents

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

The third survey of devadasis in Karnataka commenced on Monday amid confusion over the list of documents sought by the government to establish the identity. Activists claim many are not even aware that a survey is under way, given inadequate publicity.

A number of devadasis who went to their respective taluk office of the Women and Child Welfare Department on Monday had to return home without completing the survey, since they lacked documents that included the family tree. In some places, server issues slowed down the registration.

The government has mandated over a dozen documents from those devadasis and their family members who have been left out of the previous surveys or from the families of the deceased devadasis. Confusion seems to prevail in the taluk offices since a self declaration is also accepted, according to officials.

Shobha S. Gasthi, a former devadasi and a member of the government-appointed Belagavi district committee, felt that the insistence on the family tree would prevent many from getting benefits. The family tree may take over a fortnight to just apply for and the survey process may be over before people get it, she said.

She also pointed out that though the survey started, the district committee was yet to meet even once.

Yamanurappa Halavagli, son of a devadasi and State coordinator of the Karnataka Vimuktha Devadasi Mahila Matthu Makkala Vedike, said: "The survey is not being done transparently. District committees have not been trained before the survey. In fact, in several districts committee itself has not been formed".

The survey of devadasis is being conducted in 15 North and Central Karnataka districts where the system of dedicating women to temple services has been found to be prevailing even after the Karnataka Devadasis (Prohibition of Dedication) Act, 1982, was enacted.

While the first two surveys conducted in 1993-1994 and 2008-2009 identified 23,630 and 46,660 devadasis, respectively, several thousands had been left out since an age criteria of 45 and above had been imposed.

The current survey follows the State Human Rights Commission direction to the government to conduct a fresh survey before October 24.

Suresh Kumar to meet representatives of SDMCs today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BJP leader and former Education Minister S. Suresh Kumar is holding an interaction programme with representatives of 80 government school development monitoring committees from different parts of the State in Bengaluru on Tuesday, as part of efforts to bring the problems related to government schools to the notice of the government.

He recalled that a debate on quality of teaching in government schools had been taken up in the Legislative Assembly in the recently concluded session following his request.

The Speaker had assured the House of giving emphasis to this debate in the Winter Session to be held in Belagavi, he noted.

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-3, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.

No:DGM-3/BSWML/TEND/09/2025-26 Date: 15.09.2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Tender documents can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) on payment of prescribed fee noted against each item of work (non-refundable) in the form of e-Payment through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. The Bidder shall submit the bid through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.

Name of the Works	Estimated amount (Rs.in lakhs)	EMD (in Rupees)	Stipulated Period of Service Contract
Repair of Existing machineries and Vehicles at Seegehalli wet waste processing plant of 120 TPD capacity. Call-2	14.86	Rs.37,150/- through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC.	03 Months
Repair of Existing machineries and Vehicles at Chikkanagmangala wet waste processing plant of 300 TPD capacity. Call-2	36.49	Rs.72,980/- through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC.	03 Months

CALENDER OF EVENTS: 1) Date of Pre bid meeting: **19.09.2025** at **15:00** hours in office of the Chief Engineer & Chief General Manager (Tech), BSWML, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560052. (2) Last date of submission of Bids in KPP Portal: **25.09.2025** before **16:00** hours. (3) The Technical Bid opening date in KPP Portal: **26.09.2025** after **16:30** hours.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/2818/CCL/2025-26

MBM UNIVERSITY, JODHPUR

No. : MBMU/OIC/2025-26/800 Date :- 13/09/2025

NOTICE INVITING BID

Bids are invited from interested eligible and experienced vendors/suppliers for the supply/provision of the following items/services at MBM University, Jodhpur. All other particulars of the bid may be visited on the portal **sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.mbm.ac.in.**

1. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526GLOB00039 COMSOL Multiphysics for Mechanical Department (UNDER PM-USHA) at MBM University, Jodhpur with estimated amount ₹32.00 Lakhs and last date of bid submission 24.09.2025, 12:00 Noon.
2. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526GLOB00040 Data Acquisition Systems for Mechanical Department (UNDER PM-USHA) at MBM University, Jodhpur with estimated amount ₹20.00 and last date of bid submission 24.09.2025, 12:00 Noon.
3. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526GLOB00041 Equipment for Automobile Lab (UNDER PM-USHA) at M B M University, Jodhpur. with estimated amount ₹19.00 Lakhs and last date of bid submission 24.09.2025 12:00 Noon.
4. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526GLOB00042 Equipment for Mechanical Workshop for Mechanical Department (UNDER PM-USHA) at MBM University, Jodhpur with estimated amount ₹47.00 Lakhs and last date of bid submission 24.09.2025 12:00 Noon.
5. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526GLOB00043 Equipment for Thermal Properties Measurement Apparatus (UNDER PM-USHA) at MBM University, Jodhpur with estimated amount ₹19.00 Lakhs and last date of bid submission 24.09.2025 12:00 Noon.
6. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526GLOB00044 HMT laboratory Equipment's (UNDER PM-USHA) at MBM University, Jodhpur with estimated amount ₹10.30 Lakhs and last date of bid submission 24.09.2025 12:00 Noon.
7. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526GLOB00045 Instrumentation Lab Equipment's for Mechanical Department (UNDER PM-USHA) at MBM University, Jodhpur with estimated amount ₹11.50 Lakhs and last date of bid submission 24.09.2025 12:00 Noon.
8. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526GLOB00046 Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Lab Equipment's for Mechanical Department (UNDER PM-USHA) at MBM University, Jodhpur with estimated amount ₹12.00 Lakhs and last date of bid submission 24.09.2025 12:00 Noon.
9. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526GSOB00047 3D Cad Software's in computer lab (UNDER PM-USHA) at MBM University, Jodhpur with estimated amount ₹05.00 Lakhs and last date of bid submission 19.09.2025 12:00 Noon.
10. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526GSRC00048 Rate contract of Stationary Items at MBM University, Jodhpur with estimated amount ₹10.00 Lakhs and last date of bid submission 24.09.2025 12:00 Noon.
11. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526GLOB00049 Equipment's for Solar Lab for Mechanical Department (UNDER PM-USHA) at MBM University, Jodhpur with estimated amount ₹13.00 Lakhs and last date of bid submission 24.09.2025 12:00 Noon.

Raj.Samwad/C/25/10042 OIC-Central Store

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY

P.L. SUBRAMANIAM
(15-06-1936 - 14-09-2025)
Retd. Chief Manager, State Bank of India
Deeply Mourned by
Family & Friends
9444088562
6380450114

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

REMEMBRANCE

SHOBHA WARRIER
31.05.1964 - 16.09.2022
Fondly Remembered
Rugmini Warrier (Mother)
KR Warrier (Husband 9444454175)
Aparna Warrier (Daughter)
Sudha Warrier (Sister 9731218409)

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981,
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575,
from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Online booking: www.thehinduads.com

DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

Quota matrix: BJP warns govt. of severe consequences

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP has warned the Congress government of "serious consequences" if it ignores the one-week deadline served by Scheduled Castes activists to set right the "anomalies" with respect to internal reservation matrix.

On Monday, BJP State general secretary P. Rajeev, who was part of a group of of SC communities who staged a protest here recently seeking reworking of the matrix, pointed out that the deadline given by the protesters would end by Wednesday evening.

Alleging that the matrix was "unscientific" and had not complied with the Supreme Court's directives, Mr. Rajiv expressed concern that the most oppressed communities like the nomadic groups had been given a raw deal under the new internal reservation matrix.

He recalled that the erstwhile BJP government led by Basavaraj Bommai had given reservation of 4.5% to Bovis, Banjaras, Korachas, Koramas and 1% reservation to nomadic groups that have 59 communities. But the Congress government had combined them and given a total reservation of only 5% while taking away 0.5% reservation from them, he alleged.

Instead of convening a meeting of the SC activists who had staged the protest, the government was trying to file criminal cases against them in an effort to silence them, he alleged.

Three missing after heavy rain lashes Hyderabad

Overnight downpour leaves a trail of destruction; family members join NDRF teams as search on for those washed away in floodwaters; rescue personnel combing through nearby storm drains

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Rescue operations continued on Monday for three people who were washed away by floodwaters after heavy rain lashed Hyderabad city on Sunday night.

The missing men are J. Dinesh Kumar, 24, Rama, 25, and Arjun, 26.

Dinesh has been missing since Sunday night's deluge when floodwaters swept him into a drain at Parsigutta's Vinoda Nagar. His family combed through the flood-hit stretches of Moosarambagh and Padma Colony bridge on Monday, hoping to trace him.

Dinesh had stepped out around 8.20 p.m. to move his motorcycle as rainwater began filling the low-lying lane. A wall beside him suddenly collapsed, releasing a surge of sewage that dragged him into the raging stream.

His motorbike was found hours later.

His elder brother Rakesh Kumar, who joined the police and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams in the search, said, "Dinesh has a three-year-old son. His wife stays at home, but she has been unwell for the past three months. For half an hour, we didn't even know he had fallen into the drain."

Dinesh's disappearance has left his family clinging on to hope as teams from the NDRF, Musheerabad Police and Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) continue combing the drain from Nallakunta to Moosarambagh, about nine kilometres away from his residence.

Hopeful search: Municipal workers searching a *nala* for a youth, Dinesh Kumar, who was washed away in Sunday's heavy rain at Vinobha Nagar in Hyderabad on Monday. NAGARA GOPAL

Slipped into drain

In another part of the city, tragedy struck Habeeb Nagar where Rama and Arjun, slipped into a flooded drain beside their house at Mangaru Basti.

The road slopes downwards into the stream, and with floodwater rushing in, the two men lost their footing. "They were washed away in the strong currents," an officer said, adding that as of Monday evening, search operations had been extended up to Gowlipura.

Heavy rain alert for 9 districts in Telangana

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a heavy rainfall warning for nine Telangana districts for Tuesday.

According to the IMD's latest bulletin, heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at isolated places in Adilabad, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Vikarabad, Sangareddy, Medak, Kamareddy, Mahabubnagar and Narayanpet districts.

Additionally, thunderstorms accompanied with lightning and gusty winds are very likely to occur in all 33 districts of the State, the bulletin said.

Meanwhile, Hyderabad and its surrounding areas will see a generally cloudy sky for the next 24 hours.

"Light to moderate rain or thundershowers with intense spells, at times accompanied with gusty winds, are very likely to prevail in the city during morning and night hours," as per the bulletin.

From Sunday to Monday morning (8.30 a.m.), the highest rainfall in the State was at 24.24 cm in Narayanraopet of Siddipet, followed by 10.58 cm in Tupran of Medak.

Kerala MLA ends political exile, attends Assembly

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Congress legislator Rahul Mamkootathil arrived at the Kerala Assembly on Monday, marking the end of his self-imposed political exile following accusations of sexual misconduct.

Mr. Mamkootathil entered the Assembly accompanied by Youth Congress leaders, as the House paid its homage to departed leaders.

SFI blockade

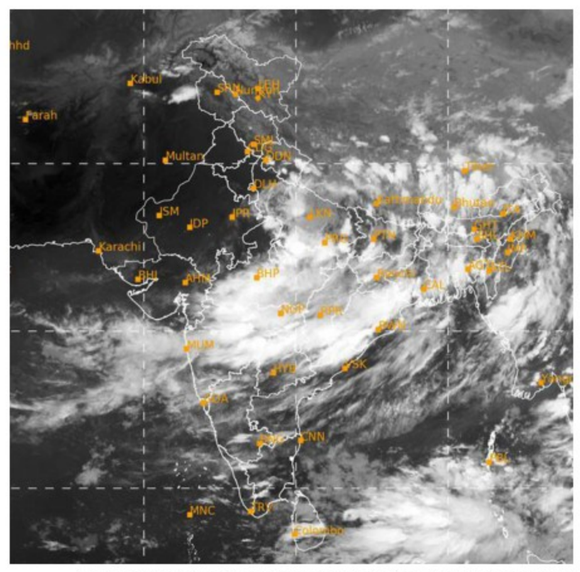
Earlier, a group of Students Federation of India activists blocked Mr. Mamkootathil's car as it proceeded to the Assembly complex. The police arrested and removed the protesters. Speaking to presspersons, Mr. Mamkootathil alleged that he was "a victim of a political witch-hunt" launched by the Left Democratic Front government.

Mr. Mamkootathil denied that he had dared the Congress's writ by attending the Assembly. "The Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee has suspended me from the party's primary membership. The Congress Legislature Party has debarred me temporarily from its rolls. It does not entail that I am no longer a Congress worker. I remain subservient to the party," he said.

KPCC president Sunny Joseph told presspersons that Mr. Mamkootathil "remains an elected member of the House" and had constitutional rights to attend the proceedings.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	19	31.4	25.1	Kozhikode	—	34.2	25.4
Ahmedabad	—	33.7	26.0	Kurnool	—	31.6	24.8
Aizawl	28.7	30.6	19.0	Lucknow	—	30.4	26.7
Allahabad	3.4	35.5	26.6	Madurai	—	39.5	26.1
Bengaluru	—	28.5	20.5	Mangaluru	9	28.9	22.5
Bhopal	—	31.0	24.6	Mumbai	73	25.7	24.3
Bhubaneswar	—	31.7	25.4	Mysuru	—	29.0	18.8
Chandigarh	0.2	35.6	25.8	New Delhi	—	36.1	25.5
Chennai	—	36.0	27.5	Patna	18	31.4	26.1
Coimbatore	—	33.8	22.8	Port Blair	—	30.8	25.0
Dehradun	13	31.4	23.9	Puducherry	—	35.0	25.6
Gangtok	14	20.4	17.6	Pune	129.2	27.2	23.3
Goa	3	26.8	24.2	Raipur	0.4	29.1	26.1
Guwahati	15	31.0	24.8	Ranchi	41	27.0	23.4
Hubballi	—	27.0	22.0	Shillong	4.4	21.0	17.6
Hyderabad	15	28.8	22.1	Shimla	4	25.6	18.8
Imphal	—	29.3	23.6	Srinagar	—	32.0	19.2
Jaipur	0.4	35.0	26.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.3	25.1
Kochi	—	30.2	25.8	Tiruchi	—	35.5	26.0
Kohima	—	20.0	—	Vijayawada	4	32.0	25.0
Kolkata	25	30.0	25.8	Visakhapatnam	—	31.4	27.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	4	15	43	39	50	
Bengaluru	6	15	33	30	100	
Chennai	9	16	58	52	68	
Delhi	38	47	72	230	277	
Hyderabad	—	11	24	96	88	
Kolkata	6	36	19	38	35	
Lucknow	11	40	79	50	55	
Mumbai	—	68	55	24	46	
Pune	—	33	70	52	50	
Visakhapatnam	10	37	27	143	277	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 283 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 11

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

State govt. extends deadline for receiving applications for start-up programmes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Department of Electronics, IT and BT has extended the deadline for receiving applications for its flagship start-up programmes: ELEVATE 2025, ELEVATE Unnati 2025, and ELEVATE Minorities 2025. In the light of good response from innovators and entrepreneurs across Karnataka, the submission deadline has been extended from September 15 to 17, until 11.59 p.m., according to an official release from the department. Applications must be submitted through the official portal:https://eitbt.karnataka.gov.in/

The ELEVATE programme is designed to identify and support innovative, early-stage start-ups by providing them with essential resources, including grant-in-aid, according to a press release.

TAMILNADU RURAL TRANSFORMATION PROJECT 2.0
(Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Government of Tamil Nadu)
5th Floor, SIDCO Corporate Office Building, Thiru. Vi. Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai- 600 032.
Phone No.044 - 43443200 Email – procurement.tnrtp2@gmail.com Website: www.vkp-tnrtp.org
File No: 227/P&C/2025 Date: 12.09.2025

REQUEST FOR INVITE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SCOPING OF ENTERPRISE FINANCING IN TAMIL NADU FOR TNRTP 2.0 UNDER TAMIL NADU CORPORATION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN LTD (TNCDW)

The **Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project 2.0** invites **"Expression of Interest"** from the eligible agencies to submit their interest for providing services for World Bank funded TNRTP 2.0 Project for **"Scoping of Enterprise Financing in Tamil Nadu for TNRTP 2.0 under Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women Ltd (TNCDW)"**. Interested agencies may submit their **"EXPRESSION OF INTEREST"** in a sealed envelope clearly super scribed as Expression of Interest for **"Scoping of Enterprise Financing in Tamil Nadu for TNRTP 2.0 under Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women Ltd (TNCDW)"** latest by **17.00 hours** on **30.09.2025.** This selection will be done on Quality and Cost based Selection (QCBS) of the World Bank. The agencies may obtain further information and procedures for submitting the **"Expression of Interest"** from the official website of **TNRTP i.e., www.vkp-tnrtp.org.**

DIPR/5096/DISPLAY/2025 **Chief Executive Officer, TNRTP**

Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood
Society For Karnataka German Multi Skill Development Centre
(A Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the KGMSDC, CoE Building, Kaushalya Bhavan Campus, Bannerughatta Road, Bengaluru - 56 0029. Ph.: 080-29649797, **Website:** kgmsdc.karnataka.gov.in
No: KGS/EST/KGT/REC/AD/CR-31/2025-26 Dated: 15.09.2025

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

KGMSDC Society promoted by Government of Karnataka **with technical support of German International Cooperation (GIZ-IS) Germany has already established Eight Karnataka German Technical Training Institutes (KGTTIs) at Bengaluru, Kalaburagi, Belagavi, Mangaluru, Hubballi, Mysuru, Gouribidanuru and Karkala.** The Society is looking for dynamic people with a passion for teaching/training for the following positions.

Sl.No.	Position	Location	Number of Posts
01	Assistant Director	KGTTI, Bengaluru	01
02	Assistant Director	KGTTI, Kalaburagi	01

Detailed requirements of the position & information can be obtained from our website: **www.kgmsdc.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/- Member Secretary, KGMSDC, Bengaluru

HC acquits ex-Minister in harassment case by officer

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Monday acquitted former Minister A. Neelalohitadasan Nadar on the charge of outraging the modesty of a woman Indian Forest Service official who was serving as the Divisional Forest Officer, Kozhikode, in 1999.

The court said there was no satisfactory explanation for the delay of more than two years in preferring the complaint in 2001.

Odisha Police
Office of the D.G & I.G. of Police, Odisha, Cuttack
Tel.:0671-2304001, Website :www.odishapolice.gov.in; Email: aig-prov.odpol@od.gov.in

Online Bids through e-Tender Portal **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** are invited from the eligible bidders of RFP for Selection of a Consultancy Firm for establishing of Technical Assistance and Support Unit (TASU) for Odisha Police Department during the current financial year, 2025-26 as per the particulars mentioned below.

Sl.No.	Name of Item	Ref No & Date
1	Selection of a Consultancy Firm for establishing of Technical Assistance and Support Unit (TASU) for Odisha Police Department.	**18-RFP-TASU - 2025-26 Date :- 13.09.2025**

Sl. No.	Particulars	Details
1.	Name of the Organisation	Odisha Police Department
2.	Method of Selection & Proposal Validity	Quality cum Cost Based Selection (QCBS) & 180 Day's proposal validity
3.	Date of Issue of RFP	13.09.2025
4.	Deadline for Submission of Pre-Proposal / Pre-Bid Queries	17.09.2025
5.	Issue of Pre-proposal Clarifications	18.09.2025
6.	Proposal Due Date	25.09.2025 till 12.30 PM
7	Date of opening of Technical and Qualification Proposal	26.09.2025 till 12.30 PM
8	Date of Presentation	To be informed later
9	Date of Opening of Financial Proposal	To be informed technically qualified after bidders

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites : https://tendersodisha.gov.in. The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

A.I.G. of Police (Provisioning,) Odisha, Cuttack.
(Tender Calling Authority)
D-210: OIPR-12029/11/0105/2526

Odisha Police
Office of the D.G & I.G. of Police, Odisha, Cuttack
Tel.:0671-2304001, Website :www.odishapolice.gov.in; Email: aig-prov.odpol@od.gov.in

Online Bids through e-Tender Portal **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** are invited from the eligible bidders of RFP for Setting up of Odisha Police Strategic Communication and Information Cell for Odisha Police during the current financial year, 2025-26 as per the particulars mentioned below.

Sl.No.	Name of Item	Ref No & Date
1	Request For Proposal (RFP) for Setting up of Odisha Police Strategic Communication and Information Cell for Odisha Police.	**17-RFP-OPSC and IC-2025-26 Date:-13.09.2025**

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date	Time
1	Date & Time of release of bid	13/09/2025	05:00 PM
2	Deadline for Submission of Pre-Proposal/ Pre-Bid Queries.	17/09/2025	05:00 PM
3	Issue of Pre-bid Clarification	18/09/2025	05:00 PM
4	Last Date & Time of online bid submission	25/09/2025	05:00 PM
5	Date & Time for online Technical bid opening	26/09/2025, 11.30 AM	
6	Date of presentation of solution of e-tender / Technical Bid evaluation	To be informed to the participated bidders	
7	Date of Price bid opening	To be informed to the qualified bidders	
8	Venue	State Police Hdqrs., Cuttack, Buxi Bazar, Odisha	
9	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (Refundable)	2,80,000/- (Rupees Two lakh eighty thousand) only	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites : https://tendersodisha.gov.in. The Authority reserves the right to accept/ reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

A.I.G. of Police (Provisioning,) Odisha, Cuttack.
(Tender Calling Authority)
D-209: OIPR-12029/11/0104/2526

KARNATAKA SKILL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
3rd Floor, Koushalya Bhavana, Bannerghatta Road
Dairy Circle, Bangalore -560029, Phone No: 080-29522222
e-mail ID: skilldev.2017@gmail.com
No. KSDC/LBKK-DB/CR-03/2025-26 Dated:15.09.2025

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Karnataka Skill Development Corporation (KSDC) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from interested, experienced, and eligible artisan institutions, NGOs, SHGs, cooperative societies, or training providers to conduct "Lambani (Banjara) Kasuthi Skill Training" under the CMKKY Scheme. The EOI (Document Reference No.: KSDC/2025-26 /PREQUAL_TENDER_NUMBER_3) is published on the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP), with the EOI document download starting from 16.09.2025. The last date for submission of proposals is 30.09.2025 up to 17:30 Hrs. Interested applicants fulfilling the eligibility criteria may submit their proposals through the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) (www. kppp.karnataka.gov.in) portal. For further details, please contact KPPP Helpline No.: +91 9240214000/ +91 9240214001 or email at support@eprochelpdesk.com.

Sd/-
Executive Director-02
KSDC, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/2809/CCL/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KOPPAL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (R), KOPPAL (ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಯತ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)
ನೊಂದಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:KOL-S243-2012-13 ದಿನಾಂಕ:15–03–2013
Website: www.kimskoppal.com email: directorkimskoppal@gmail.com
Office : 08539 225522 Office : 08539-225523

No: KIMS/Koppal/Tender/2025-26/262 Date: 12/09/2025

E-TENDER-NOTIFICATION

E- Tender is invited for Supply of Furniture's to Central Library, KIMS Koppal and for Supply, Replacement, Repair of 33 KV Sub Station Components And Maintenance For One Year at KIMS Koppal On Turnkey/Package Basis under two cover Bid system as per KTPP Act 1999 rule 2000 KPPP portal of Government of Karnataka.

Tender No: 1.KIMS/Koppal/Furniture/ 2025-26 Date:17/09/2025 **Particulars:** Providing Furniture's to Central Library KIMS Koppal **Approx Cost (In Lakhs):** 20.00 **EMD Rs:** 50,000/-

Tender No: 2.KIMS/Koppal/ 33 SËD/ 2025-26 Date: 17/09/2025 **Particulars:** Supply, Replacement, Repair of 33 KV Sub Station Components And Maintenance For One Year At KIMS Koppal On turnkey/package basis. **Approx Cost (In Lakhs):** 15.00 **EMD Rs:** 37,500 1) Tender documents may download from the **17/09/2025** 2) Tender must be submitted online on before **03/10/2025** @5.30 PM 3) Technical Bids will be opened on **06/10/2025** @11.30AM 4) Price Bid will be opened on **10/10/2025** @11.30 AM

Further information may be obtained from the above office during office hours & also from Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and this office web-site www.kimskoppal.kar.nic.in

DIPR/Koppal/347/KSMCA/2025-26 **Sd/-Director, KIMS Koppal.**

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
KBJNL.NLBC Division, Rodalabanda-584127
Tq.Lingasugur Dist.Raichur email:kbjnlnlbc4@gmail.com

No: KBJNL/NLBC/PB/2025-26/829 Date:09.09.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
(SERVICE TENDER)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer KBJNL, NLBC Division, Rodalabanda invites percentage tenders in two cover system from eligible Reputed and authorized Man power Supply agencies, Registered in Karnataka State, for the work of: Supply of Man power for water management of RLIS & Providing Manpower and Security Arrangements for 1st & 2nd Head work of RLIS (3 No.of works) as detailed in the Tender Notification published in Karnataka public portal viz http// www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in. The Intending tenderers may download the tender document through Karnataka public portal viz., www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in.from 12.09.2025 to 20.09.2025 @ 5.00 PM. The technical bid will be opened on 22.09.2025 @ 11.00 AM and Further details can be obtained from this office in any working days during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIP/RCR/408/KSMC&A/409/2024-25 **KBJNL NLBC Division, Rodalbanda**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/JE-1/F-393(4)/24-25/2772-77 Date: 15.09.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry No:KPTCL/SEE/TR(O)/ BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/JE-1/24-25/EPR-82 CALL-3 Dated: **01.02.2025** for **"Design, manufacturing testing, and supply of 14 no's of 66KV Class Potential Transformers (0.2 Accuracy), 31.5KA rating of ratio 66KV/√3/110V/√3-110V/√3-110V/√3 (with Marshalling Boxes and without Mounting Structures) conforming to KPTCL Technical Specifications F.O.R.D at stores/site basis, including insurance, transportation and unloading for the use at various sub-stations coming under Transmission (Operations) Circle-South, KPTCL Bengaluru"** The Bids will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **16.09.2025.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, (Ele.), Transmission (Op) Circle-South, KPTCL Office Complex, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-09

Divided state

The U.S. needs a new enlightened leadership in the two major parties

The shooting of Charlie Kirk, a controversial, outspoken conservative commentator and political ally of U.S. President Donald Trump, has revealed, once again, the depth of polarisation of opinion in the country and its disturbing proclivity towards using lethal violence to settle debates. Ironically, Mr. Kirk was a vocal advocate of the Second Amendment right to bear arms, even as he espoused a range of right-wing values at liberal university campuses, and in curbing abortion rights, and limiting the rights of transgender and LGBTQ persons – all the while recruiting young voters to the Republican cause. The man arrested on suspicion of shooting him, Tyler Robinson, is said to have diverged from his own conservative family roots although few specifics or possible motives are established so far. This much is clear: years of political vitriol backed by policies built on the values of nativism, revisionism, exclusion, religiosity, and a hateful intolerance of social and ideological diversity have brought the shutters down on any channels for open-minded dialogue and bipartisanship that might have existed earlier.

The U.S. is at a crossroads in terms of its standing as a moral and economic force espousing, respectively, for the merits of democracy and capitalism. Given the crackdown on and deportations of students, academics and residents protesting atrocities in Gaza, and the cruel family separations resulting from immigration raids, there are many who would doubt the claim that the U.S. remains the bedrock of substantive democracy. Economically, the rules-based international order that emerged through the years of the Washington Consensus stands in a shambles in some regards, with Mr. Trump's tariff policy that fuelled a worldwide trade war bringing global supply chains to their knees. Nowhere is the impact of these tectonic shifts in the U.S.'s ideological and policy posture more keenly felt than on its own soil, with Democrats on the retreat after two Trump terms, and Republicans embracing their President's political agenda, which is only an amorphous version of the classic conservatism that many of them adhere to. When conversations across the aisle fall silent, fear looms large, especially for minorities pushed to the fringes of the political discourse, and the desperate on all sides fall back on toxic gun culture to give vent to their frustrations with the status quo. Given that numerous past Presidents have tried and failed to start conversations on common sense gun control reform, including no fewer than 17 attempts by Barack Obama to introduce such legislation in Congress, it is only the emergence of a new, enlightened leadership in both parties that could hold out hope for a less fractured and hateful polity in the post-Trump years.

Field and fraternity

Sport is political, but it must not be the stage for a theatre of conflict

Sports, like war, can be a continuation of politics by other means, but it always makes sense to question all the forms and avatars of politics. The India-Pakistan Asia Cup match on September 14 was preceded by demands that it be suspended. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray called it an "insult to national sentiment" while the AIMIM's Asaduddin Owaisi argued that commercial gain had been valued over the lives lost in Pahalgam. Petitioners had also asked the Supreme Court to cancel the game. Yet, India captain Suryakumar Yadav had decided that his team would not shake hands with its Pakistani counterpart, calling it an "alignment" with government policy. It is striking that Mr. Thackeray and Mr. Owaisi, from different ends of the political spectrum, echoed the BJP-led government's policy of disengagement from Pakistan, revealing how this debate has been circumscribed by notions of national solidarity. But the BCCI is also partly to blame for having long operated outside the purview of sports governance law, sustained by networks that still link administrators to ruling parties. Cricket has never been immune to politics: colonial India used it to negotiate power with imperial rulers and independent India and Pakistan invested their encounters with the weight of Partition. Yet, cricket, especially in the 1970s and 2000s, opened spaces for contact, with the field allowing a rivalry that was sporting rather than military.

Today, this tradition is being eroded by the collective transformation of cricket into another theatre of conflict. Sportspersons are not soldiers and their gestures matter because they dramatise fellowship. To withdraw from even this minimal courtesy confuses solidarity with victims of terrorism with the repudiation of fellow athletes. The Asia Cup game showed how far Indian cricket has moved from the position that sport affirms the fraternity of ordinary life, with its rituals of rivalry and joy rising in defiance of violence and bloodshed. It is bad enough that the ICC places the India and the Pakistan teams in the same group in multilateral tournaments, creating repetitive match-ups to go with the inordinate influence the BCCI exerts on these events. Rather than compound these artificialities, Suryakumar and team should adopt the more responsible course and restore hand-shaking for the rest of the tournament. Sport is political, but it does not have to be war minus the shooting. International contests might mimic warfare, but the whole point of sport is lost if sportspersons behave as proxies of political leaders seeking to inflame passions to polarise people.

Unlocking innovation with India's procurement reforms

Arindam Goswami

is a Research Analyst in the High-Tech Geopolitics Programme at The Takshashila Institution, Bengaluru

Procurement policies, often designed with transparency and cost-efficiency in mind, have long had unintended consequences for research and development. While preventing fraud, these frameworks frequently kill innovation, one process at a time, by prioritising procedural compliance over scientific needs. India's recent reforms to its General Financial Rules (GFR) – particularly exemptions from the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal and enhanced financial thresholds for research and development (R&D) procurement – are a welcome change.

Procurement as innovation catalyst

The tug-of-war between procurement policies and innovation is not new. Studies have shown that public procurement, when done properly, can give a push to private-sector R&D by creating stable demand for advanced technologies. Moreover, it has been found that targeted procurement spending is associated with increased patent filings and private R&D investment, forming a virtuous cycle of innovation. However, as the Brazilian case study in EconStor's 2023 report notes, generic procurement rules rarely achieve this unless explicitly designed to spur innovation. India's pre-reform framework fell into this trap: mandating GeM purchases for all sub-₹200 crore equipment, regardless of specialisation, which forced scientists into a time-consuming exemption process for globally benchmarked tools. Vendors on GeM often supplied materials of poor quality, compromising research.

The Government of India's policy changes in June 2025 directly address these issues. By allowing institutional heads to bypass GeM for specialised equipment and raising direct purchase limits from ₹1 lakh to ₹2 lakh, the reforms acknowledge that cookie-cutter procurement is incompatible with R&D's bespoke needs. Delegating approval for global tenders up to ₹200 crore to vice-chancellors and directors eliminates bureaucratic lag – a chronic grievance highlighted by the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council. These adjustments align with theories of "catalytic procurement", where flexibility enables public institutions to act as early adopters of advanced technologies, stimulating private-sector innovation.

Yet, the reforms stop short of a full paradigm shift. While empowering institutional leaders, they retain safeguards such as departmental purchase committees for higher-value acquisitions. This could be argued as a necessary balance. However, even the revised ₹2 lakh direct purchase limit could remain inadequate for high-cost fields such as quantum computing or biotechnology. Additionally, the focus on global tenders, while ensuring quality, could marginalise domestic suppliers unless local R&D systems are empowered and left free to collaborate globally, and compete at that level.

The policy's success will depend to a large extent on implementation. Trusting institutional heads with procurement discretion assumes high ethical standards, which is something that will have to be built up, slowly, in a system that has been historically plagued by inefficiency. As the policy rolls out, monitoring mechanisms will be vital to prevent misuse while preserving agility.

> Research and development can be transformed by blending these changes with global best practices in market-shaping, cognitive tools and hybrid governance

How has procurement evolved globally? Globally, nations leading in R&D outcomes have already reimagined procurement as something that acts as a catalyst for innovation – not just a cost-control mechanism. India can learn from their experiences. Procurement processes have evolved from ancient record-keeping to Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven strategies. India would do well to learn from these.

Germany's approach is a good example of balancing procurement checks and R&D ambitions. Through its High-Tech Strategy, the federal government mandates that public procurement be used to promote innovative solutions, supported by KOINNO, which is a dedicated agency advising procurers, curating supplier databases, and hosting cross-sector innovation forums. This institutionalises what economist Mariana Mazzucato terms "mission-oriented procurement", where state-purchasing power deliberately shapes technological markets. Similarly, the 'Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program' of the United States reserves 3% of federal R&D funds for startups, using phased procurement contracts to derisk early-stage technologies while maintaining competitive tension among vendors. These models recognise that procuring innovation is not about buying predefined products but in fostering ecosystems where suppliers compete on breakthroughs.

India's GeM reforms partially embrace this philosophy by exempting specialised research equipment from mandatory portal use – a nod to the fact that Indian labs often face delays extending to a few months when dealing with niche instruments. However, the policy lacks Germany's proactive market-shaping elements or the SBIR's staged funding structure. For instance, India's ₹200 crore global tender limit for institutional heads still prioritises cost benchmarks over technical ambition, unlike South Korea's "pre-commercial procurement" system that pays premium prices for prototypes meeting moonshot criteria.

Procurement's evolutionary arc

Procurement's 5,000-year journey, from Egyptian scribes tracking pyramid materials to AI predicting supply chain details, reflects an evolution from control to creativity. The Industrial Revolution looked at procurement as a cost-centric function, but the two World Wars exposed its strategic role in securing scarce resources.

Post-1945, this duality deepened: corporations adopted Just-In-Time inventory systems while governments used procurement to spur sectors such as semiconductors (via National Aeronautics and Space Administration contracts) and renewables (through the European Union's green mandates).

Today's frontier is "cognitive procurement", where tools such as generative AI analyse supplier ecosystems, simulate scarcity scenarios, and automate compliance – freeing researchers to focus on creative sourcing. Consider Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine effort, where AI-optimised procurement identified multiple critical suppliers within a few hours, compressing a months-long process into weeks.

The discussion over procurement policies often leads to calls for privatisation of national labs, as that would probably open up the procurement process. However, it would be wise to consider that the debate over privatising India's national labs hinges on a false binary. As the U.S. experience shows, privatisation is not about abandoning public oversight but redefining it. When the Department of Energy handed over the management and operation of Sandia National Laboratories in 1993 to a private company, it retained mission control through performance-based contracts while unlocking private capital for laser and materials research. The result? A huge increase in patent filings and partnerships with a number of small and medium enterprises within a decade.

India's Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) could adopt this hybrid model. Laboratories working in strategic fields such as space tech or quantum computing might benefit from corporate-style agility in procurement and hiring, provided the government maintains some control to safeguard national interests. However, success requires robust accountability frameworks and some alignment with innovation road maps.

Procurement as a research variable

India's procurement reforms are necessary but insufficient. Four systemic shifts could anchor deeper change. The first would be outcome-weighted tenders. Following Finland's example, there must be an evaluation of bids not just on cost but also on an index that weighs various qualitative factors such as supplier R&D investment and scalability potential.

The second would be providing sandbox exemptions. Allow institutions such as the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research or the Indian Institutes of Technology to bypass GFR entirely for some percentage of their purchases, provided they meet annual innovation targets audited by third parties.

The third intervention should be AI-augmented sourcing. Deploy the INDIAai ecosystem to create a procurement assistant that scans global catalogues, predicts customs delays, and suggests alternative materials – reducing decision cycles from months to hours.

And finally, go in for co-procurement alliances. Replicate the European Union's Joint Procurement Agreement, enabling multiple Indian labs to aggregate demand for high-cost items such as cryogenic coolers, achieving economies of scale.

Privatisation is not a silver bullet but a tool among many. As this study on U.S. labs warns, merely transferring ownership sans performance-linked funding or competitive pressure risks creating ineffective labs. The goal must be creating a procurement continuum where public and private entities coexist – each accessing shared innovation marketplaces but governed by distinct risk-reward matrices.

India's GeM reforms are a tentative step toward procurement systems that value time-to-lab as much as cost savings. By marrying these changes with global best practices in market-shaping, cognitive tools, and hybrid governance, the nation could transform procurement from a research impediment to its accelerant. The lesson from history is clear: civilisations that procured for monuments left ruins; those that procured for inquiry built futures.

India's economic ambitions need better gender data

Pooja Sharma Goyal

is the Founding CEO of The Udaiti Foundation

Vivek Kumar

is Program Lead, The Udaiti Foundation

> The Government of Uttar Pradesh's Women's Economic Empowerment Index is a model that can be replicated across the country

Women contribute just 18% to India's GDP today, but continuing with business-as-usual means that trillions of dollars will be left on the table. India's aspiration to become a $30 trillion economy by 2047 rests on a simple truth: inclusive growth cannot happen if half its population remains invisible in the data that drive policy and investment. Nearly 196 million employable women are outside the workforce. While the Female Labour Force Participation Rate has improved to 41.7%, only 18% of these women are in formal employment. The question is not just how India creates opportunities for women, but how it ensures that these opportunities are visible, measurable, and acted on across every department of governance.

A district-level tool

The launch of the Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) Index by the Government of Uttar Pradesh – the first in India – offers a glimpse of what is possible. This district-level tool tracks women's participation across five economic levers: employment; education and skilling; entrepreneurship; livelihood and mobility, and safety and inclusive infrastructure. Its significance lies beyond the index. It signals a shift toward embedding a gender lens in every dataset, every department, and every decision.

India produces multiple indices on health, economic well-being and infrastructure. Very few disaggregate this data by gender. Without this lens, gaps remain hidden. Without visibility, reforms stall. And without reforms, exclusion becomes entrenched.

When inequities become visible, action follows. In Uttar Pradesh's transport sector for instance, data analysis of bus drivers and conductors in the State and the low percentage of women in this segment prompted the department to redesign recruitment strategies and address foundational infrastructure gaps such as women's restrooms in bus terminals. These changes, while modest, are catalytic, and are unlikely to have occurred without gender-specific insights.

The WEE Index shows how such insights can be systematised. By mapping where women drop off – from school to skilling, skilling to work, or entrepreneurship to credit – it moves the conversation beyond participation rates to structural barriers. Consider this striking pattern: while women dominate (more than 50%) enrolment in Uttar Pradesh's skilling programmes, they represent a fraction of registered entrepreneurs, with their access to credit being even more limited. This highlights not only participation gaps but also the systemic barriers to finance and enterprise support – data that can directly inform policy reform.

The need for data from every system

If India is serious about closing its gender gap at scale, gender-disaggregated data must become universal and normative. This requires integrating gender breakdowns into every departmental management information system – from micro, small and medium enterprises to transport to housing – and building the capacity of local governments to collect and use this data effectively to create effective gender action plans. It also calls for moving beyond surface-level counts to track retention, leadership, re-entry, and quality of employment, particularly at stages after Class 12 in school and post-graduation, where female dropout rates surge.

Equally important is the need for a rethink on gender budgeting. Too often, gender budgeting is confined to finance departments or specific women's welfare schemes. True gender budgeting applies a gender lens to every rupee spent – across education, energy, infrastructure, and more. It is simple – you cannot budget for what you do not measure.

Help for States moving ahead

What Uttar Pradesh has piloted is a foundation that can be replicated and scaled. States such as Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Telangana have already set trillion-dollar economic goals. To achieve them, they must leverage their gender dividend. A robust framework such as the WEE Index can help States translate intent into implementation – turning data into district-wise gender action plans that guide budget allocations, infrastructure priorities and programmatic reforms.

India's gender gap is not new, but India's response to it must evolve. The solution would involve a fundamental change in how India sees, measures and responds to gender across every level of governance.

The WEE Index is not the finish line but the starting block. It makes visible what has long been invisible and offers a road map to move women from the margins to the mainstream of India's growth story.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Great Nicobar project

The article, "A project of a strategic and national importance" (Editorial page, September 12, 2025), by the Union Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, merits a response.

The environmental impact assessment conducted was rushed, incomplete and flawed. That further impact studies have been mandated after the project has been granted clearance shows up its limitations. It is surprising that the assessment began even before terms of reference for it were issued. The project will disrupt and displace the tribal communities of Great Nicobar. The idea that notifying additional areas as tribal reserve will compensate for the areas being de-notified indicates a lack of understanding about the needs of the indigenous people as well as the bio-geophysical heterogeneity of Great Nicobar. Ecologically, planting trees in Haryana (which needs to be done anyway) will just not compensate for clear-felling of multi-species, biodiversity-rich forests in the Great Nicobar Island. Scientists in public institutions themselves have spoken about being asked to provide reports favourable to the project.

Jairam Ramesh,
New Delhi

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Court's nod to mental health as right

Shabin O.S.

is Assistant Professor, Rashtriya Raksha University, Puducherry campus

Nabeela Siddiqui

is Assistant Professor, Vinayaka Mission's Law School, Vinayaka Missions Research Foundation – Deemed to be University, Chennai

In July 2025, the Supreme Court of India pronounced a verdict which has been called a constitutional landmark. The case, *Sukdeb Saha vs The State Of Andhra Pradesh*, was anchored in the anguish of a father who had lost his 17-year-old daughter, a NEET candidate, in a Visakhapatnam hostel. Dissatisfied with what he believed was the failure of the local police to make a full investigation of the cause, he demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) inquiry. His petitions were rejected by the Andhra Pradesh High Court, which then saw him approach the Supreme Court. The result was not only an order shifting the investigation to the CBI but also a much-needed acknowledgment of mental health being an integral part of the right to life, under Article 21 of the Constitution.

The top court's argument transcended the specific case and revolved around a crucial social issue: India's runaway epidemic of student suicides. From a criminological perspective, the case highlights what can be termed structural victimisation. Student suicides are rarely framed in these terms. Yet, systemic neglect of mental health combined with the exploitative culture of coaching centres and the indifference of schools and universities, produce an environment where young people become vulnerable to harm. By failing to provide safeguards, the state and institutions become complicit. When institutions create or ignore conditions that drive individuals to the brink, the line between personal tragedy and institutional culpability becomes blurred.

The gaze of victimology, which has long examined the dynamics between victims and perpetrators, can be extended to state institutions as de facto perpetrators. Students are not just "victims" of internal psychological battles. They are the victims of an education system that treats them shabbily. It is also about social values that link self-esteem to hierarchy and of a governance collapse that subordinates mental health as a secondary concern. By recognising mental health as an inherent right, the Court was recognising the structural aspect of victimisation. It recast the problem not as a personal bereavement but as a public injustice.

Legally, the verdict fills a vital gap. The Mental Healthcare Act 2017 already enshrines the right to receive mental health care. But it has not been implemented consistently, and enforcement mechanisms are still poor. By entrenching mental health in the Constitution, the Court has established an elevated normative benchmark. Citizens can insist on safeguarding their psychic health as a fundamental right, not just a statutory right. To ensure that this did not become mere rhetoric, the Court ordered a package of binding interim orders – now referred to as the "Saha Guidelines". Here, schools, colleges, hostels and coaching institutes are required to proactively develop support systems to address the issue of mental health. They instruct States and Union Territories to bring the rules into force in two months and obligate the setting up of district-level monitoring committees. Until Parliament passes a full code, these guidelines will have legislative force.

The ruling also poses significant criminological questions regarding state responsibility. If suicides among students are partially an outcome of institutional neglect, can this form of neglect be regarded as structural violence? Johan Galtung's theory of structural violence posits that societal structures causing systematic harm to individuals by depriving them of basic needs are equally blameworthy as direct violence. By not creating a safe environment, the state and educational institutions indirectly perpetuate harmful circumstances. This perspective changes student suicides from being viewed as "individual failures" to a result of systemic injustice. As a victimology case, it is a point where hidden victims become visible. Students, frequently silenced by stigma or system competitiveness, are seldom heard as rights holders when it comes to mental health. Placing psychological integrity in Article 21 means that the Court has opened up room for these victims to be heard and safeguarded. It leaves the door ajar for restorative measures – counselling, reform in institutions, mechanisms of accountability that go beyond retribution to prevention.

The way the judgment has been received by mental health activists and professionals highlights its revolutionary potential. But along with optimism there must be caution. Powerful judicial pronouncements cannot, by themselves, uproot established cultural and institutional norms. The challenge is whether schools, universities, and State governments will meaningfully apply the guidelines, invest in resources, and train personnel to deliver real mental health care.

Ultimately, *Sukdeb Saha* represents a convergence of law, criminology and victimology. It recognises that harm can be produced not just by individuals but also by institutions and systems. It acknowledges that students, often treated as passive subjects of education, are rights holders whose mental well-being deserves constitutional protection. And, it challenges society to confront an uncomfortable truth – that neglect, indifference and structural pressures can be as deadly as acts of direct violence. In affirming that the right to life must include a healthy mind, the Court has given voice to a generation of students who have too often been silenced by despair. Whether this voice translates into meaningful change will determine whether the judgment remains a beacon of hope or a missed opportunity.

The Supreme Court's judgment in 'Sukdeb Saha vs The State Of Andhra Pradesh', acknowledges mental health to be an integral part of the right to life

Strengthening Kerala's secular legacy

Sabarimala's inclusivity stands in opposition to sectarian narratives

STATE OF PLAY

M.A. Baby

As one of the largest annual pilgrimage sites in the world, Sabarimala has long symbolised devotion, discipline and fraternity. The Global Ayyappa Sangamam – an initiative by the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) as part of its platinum jubilee celebrations – on September 20, is a step towards recognising this universal appeal, and strengthening Kerala's secular legacy.

Sabarimala is more than just a temple. It is a symbol of Kerala's social and cultural synthesis. Pilgrims from across caste-based and religious boundaries, climb the sacred hill after weeks of penance and self-discipline, reaffirming equality and collective spiritual pursuit. The presence of Vavar Nada, dedicated to a Muslim companion of Lord Ayyappa, is a reminder of interfaith harmony. The pilgrim routes also connect with Arthunkal Church, a Christian pilgrim centre of historical significance.

Equally symbolic is the rendering of the devotional song '*Harivarasanam*', played as a lullaby to Ayyappa and his devotees at the temple every day. The song was composed by the late G. Devarajan, also a committed atheist and communist, and immortalised in the voice of K.J. Yesudas, an iconic singer and a Christian by birth. Together, these elements highlight Sabarimala's secular, harmonious, and inclusive legacy – a space where devotion is never reduced to communal identity.

The TDB is celebrating and reaffirming this long-standing secular tradition. It signals a recognition that Sabarimala

belongs to the world, which is reflected in the words that greet one at the shrine, '*thatwam asi* (thou art that'), indicating that the same spirit sprouts in everyone, or no one is alien. Yet, Opposition parties have opposed this progressive step. Adding to this, the Sabarimala Karma Samithi, dominated by communal forces, has announced its plan to hold a so-called 'Viswasa Sangamam' (Faith Congregation) at Pandalam on September 22. It is a calculated attempt to inject a communal narrative into what has historically been a unifying space.

It is crucial to recognise the distinction between believers and communal forces. The first draws from faith a sense of discipline, moral strength, and fraternity. The second manipulates religious sentiments for narrow political gain. Kerala's history has shown that believers have often stood on the side of reform and progress. The struggles led by Sree Narayana Guru, Ayyankali, and other reformers emerged from within society and religious traditions, and yet they pointed towards liberation, equality, and social transformation. It is in this reformist tradition that the Global Ayyappa Sangamam must be located.

The secular character of Sabarimala is the outcome of centuries of reform, negotiation, and the struggles of ordinary devotees. Reforms at Sabarimala and other temples came from within society itself. The Left has always held that such internal reform movements are essential to weaken caste hierarchies and communal divisions. This is also why the attempts to communalise the Sangamam must be resisted. The BJP and its affiliates have long sought to weaponise Sabarimala for political gain, portraying progressive reform as an attack on faith. Sabarimala has never belonged to communal forces. Its inclusivity, its connections across communities and its history of reforms, stand in opposition to sectarian narratives. Efforts are on to portray the event as an effort by the CPI(M) to interfere in a religious gathering as communists are critics of religion. Communists study and critique all aspects of the society so that a better future can be ensured. So, quite naturally, religion also falls within their radar, as it is part and parcel of the society. Marx said, "Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature... It is the opium of the people." He was highlighting the fact that religion helps the oppressed to forget their sufferings. Back then, opium was used by practitioners of medicine as a pain reliever.

The Global Ayyappa Sangamam is also a platform to discuss developmental projects – the Sabarimala Master Plan, the proposed airport and other initiatives. It is a political statement, which asserts that Kerala's public sphere will not be surrendered to divisive forces. It also declares that secularism is not an abstract constitutional principle, but a living practice embodied in our pilgrim traditions.

M.A. Baby is CPI(M) General Secretary

Rising obesity, children's exposure to ultra-processed foods

Data show greater availability and widespread promotion of unhealthy foods and beverages

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

A recent UNICEF report, 'Feeding Profit: How Food Environments Are Failing Children', estimates that one in five children and adolescents between 5 and 19 years are 'living with overweight'. It highlights that children and adolescents are increasingly being exposed to "unhealthy food environments" through advertisements and food service facilities, and even lack adequate legal protections against such environments.

Children between 5 and 9 years and 10 to 14 years make up the highest shares of children who are 'living with overweight' **(Chart 2)**.

The report explores how the retail environment shapes what foods children are exposed to. UNICEF found a rise in the density of 'chain' outlets, which include convenience stores, supermarkets and hypermarkets with more than 10 outlets **(Chart 3)**.

According to the report, chain outlets influence food access and diets by facilitating the widespread availability and promotion of unhealthy foods and beverages.

But children's exposure to these foods does not stem from chain outlets alone. UNICEF's U-Report poll in 2023, which explored both the availability and marketing of foods in secondary schools across eight South Asian countries, showed that unhealthy foods and beverages were more commonly available in schools than fresh fruits or vegetables **(Chart 4a)**.

The report emphasised that mandatory national legal measures and policies are vital to creating healthy food environments. Data show that only 18% of the 202 countries analysed had mandatory nutrition standards for school meals, and only 19% have national taxes for both unhealthy foods and sugar-sweetened beverages **(Chart 5)**.

Unhealthy diets

Charts were sourced from United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)'s "Feeding Profit. How food environments are failing children", published in September 2025. For Chart 5, the data were examined for 202 countries and for a set of 10 legal measures and policies spanning breastfeeding and first foods, school food environments, marketing to children, food reformulation, food labelling, food subsidies and taxation. ***Code refers to the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and subsequent World Health Assembly resolutions.***

Chart 1: The number (in million) of children and adolescents living with overweight by age group

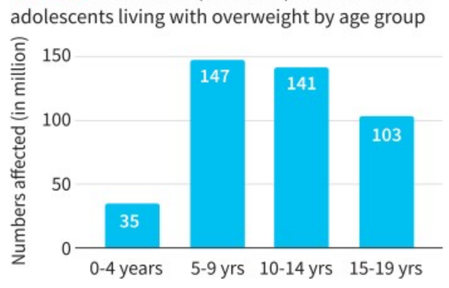


Chart 2: Percentage of children and adolescents with overweight, by age group, globally (in %)

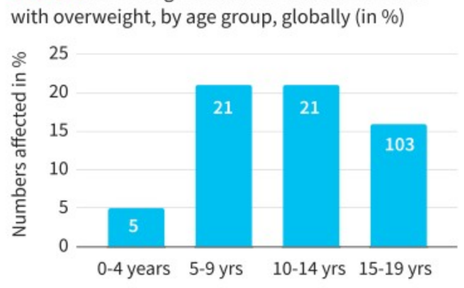


Chart 3: Trends of chain and non-chain outlets over time by income classifications of countries

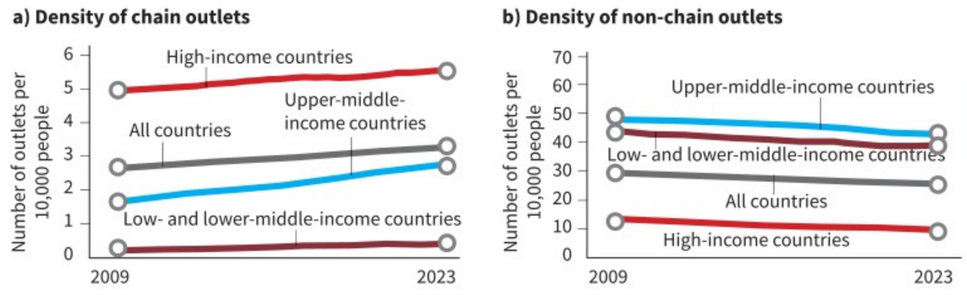


Chart 4a and 4b: Types of foods and beverages available in South Asia in 2023 (in %)

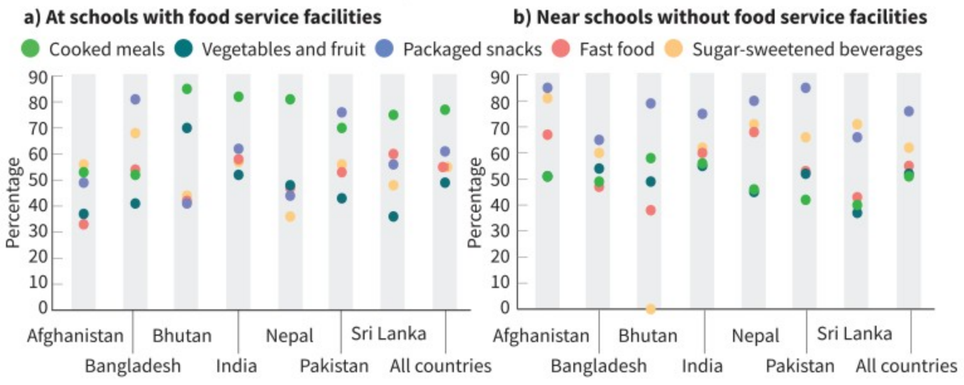
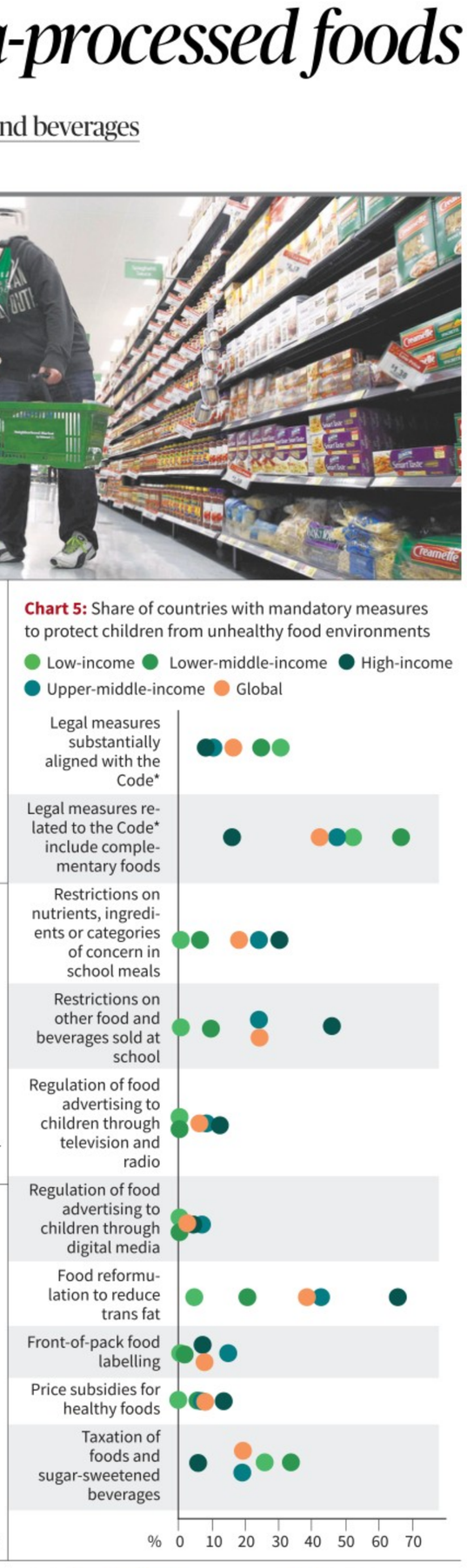


Chart 5: Share of countries with mandatory measures to protect children from unhealthy food environments



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 16, 1975

Colonial Rule Ends in Papua New Guinea

PORT MORESBY (Papua New Guinea), Sept. 15.
Trumpets sounded the Last Post and drums beat the Retreat as the Australian flag was lowered for the last time in Papua New Guinea, ending 69 years of colonial rule.
Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, the Australian Governor-General, Sir John Kerr, the Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Gough Whitlam, and about 6,000 Australians and Papua New Guineans were at the dusk ceremony in the football stadium on the shore of Port Moresby harbour.
Soldiers of the Pacific Islands Regiment fired three volleys in salute as Australia's blue flag with its white stars of the Southern Cross and Union Jack was hauled from the masthead.
The Government of Mr. Michael Somare was to take control at one minute past midnight to a ten gun salute from Australian and New Zealand warships anchored off shore.
Tribesmen from parts of the world's newest country in warrior's paint and bare-breasted girls performed tribal dances to the beat of wooden drums before Prince Charles inspected the military guard of honour.
The red and black flag of Papua New Guinea emblazoned with a golden bird of paradise will be hoisted to-morrow morning from a flagstaff on the newly-named Independence Hill, formally marking independence for the nation's 2.6 million people.
At to-day's ceremony the new Governor-General of Papua New Guinea, Sir John Guise, said, "It is important that the people of Papua New Guinea, and the rest of the world realise the spirit in which we are lowering the flag of our colonisers. We are lowering the flag, not tearing it down."
He praised the Australian Government, saying the years of transition from Australian rule to independence had been "happy peaceful years."
Australia's Governor-General, accepting the flag from Sir Guise, said Australia and its closest neighbour, Papua New Guinea, in a long period of colonisation had managed to avoid policies and relationships that " have proved so tragic elsewhere". – AP.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 16, 1925

High Jump for Horses

(Special Cable – *Copyright*)
VANCOUVER, Sep. 14.
"Barralao," a horse belonging to Welsh Brothers of Calgary, has broken the world's record for horse high jump by leaping 8 feet 1½ inches.

From Page One

SC stays 'arbitrary' Waqf changes, but upholds Act

However, the Bench found it arbitrary that the law failed to provide a basic mechanism or procedure to ascertain whether the person had indeed been practising Islam for at least five years. Chief Justice Gavai directed the provision to be shelved until the government came up with a mechanism.

The court found "totally unconstitutional" a proviso in Section 3C, which mandated that a Waqf would lose its character the moment someone raised a doubt that it was government property.

Chief Justice Gavai said though any government property was public asset, and a designated officer had every reason to conduct an inquiry, it could not suddenly cease to be one before the designated officer completes the probe and submits the report. The court stayed parts of Section 3C that allowed the designated officer and a State government to unilaterally alter revenue and Waqf Board records, respectively, changing the status of a Waqf property into a government property. Chief Justice Gavai held that determination of the title (ownership) of a property came within the ambit of the judiciary, and the executive would be breaching the fundamental principle of separation of powers by one-sidedly depriving citizens possession of a Waqf property.

"It is directed that unless the issue with regard to title of the Waqf property in terms of Section 3C of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 is not finally decided in proceedings under Section 83 before the Waqf Tribunal, and subject to further orders by the State High Court, neither the Waqfs will be dispossessed of the property nor the entry in the revenue records and the records of the Waqf Board shall be affected," the court said. To balance the equities and protect valuable government properties, the court said it was imperative that Mutawallis (managers) of these disputed Waqfs did not create any third-party rights until the final decision of the competent tribunal on the status of property.

The Bench further directed that Central Waqf Council would not have more than four non-Muslims out of a total 22. State Waqf Boards would limit the number of its non-Muslim members to three out of a total 11. The court ordered that the Chief Executive Officers of State Waqf Boards must be picked from the Muslim community "as far as possible".

"Right from 1923, in all the Waqf enactments we have referred to, there was a requirement of registration of Waqfs. We are, therefore, of the view that if Mutawallis for a period of 102 years could not get the Waqf registered, as required under the earlier provisions, they cannot claim that they be allowed to continue with the Waqf even if they are not registered," Chief Justice Gavai said.

The court noted that the Waqf Act, 1995, had allowed registration without any requirement to provide a formal deed. "If for 30 long years, the Mutawallis had chosen not to make an application for registration, they cannot be heard to say that the provision which now requires the application to be accompanied by a copy of the Waqf deed is arbitrary," the court reasoned. The judgment *prima facie* refused to accept an argument by the petitioners that a Waqf property would lose its status if it was notified as a "protected monument".

'Congress and RJD are protecting infiltrators'

In his seventh visit to Bihar since January, Mr. Modi inaugurated or laid the foundation stone for agriculture, energy, railways, housing, and women empowerment projects estimated at over ₹36,000 crore from Purnea. Among the facilities inaugurated are the new terminal of the long-pending Purnea airport, where flight services started on Monday.

He said the NDA government was continuously working for the development of Bihar. Targeting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, he said, "We have set up a Board for *makhana* (foxnut) here; but I must say that 'those who are making rounds these days in the area must not have heard even the name of *makhana* before'." He was referring to Mr. Gandhi, who recently had undertaken a 14-day Voter Adhikar Yatra in 24 districts of Bihar, covering 1,300 km.

Aadhaar part of statute, can be used by voters: SC

Mr. Upadhyay argued the SIR order of June 24 envisaged not only a proof of identity but also supporting evidence of eligibility, including place of birth or residence as per the 1950 Act. Consequently, acceptance of Aadhaar alone, without accompanying proof of place of birth or other eligibility criteria, diluted the intended scheme of the order.

He also argued in favour of a "pan-India" SIR to root out "foreign infiltrators" who had sneaked their way into the electoral rolls. "Bihar has lakhs of Bangladesh nationals and Rohingyas..." the petitioner-advocate submitted.

To this, Justice Surya Kant responded that the EC knew the law, and could distinguish between citizens and infiltrators on the voter list.

Senior advocates A.M. Singhvi and Gopal Sankaranaraynan urged the court to hear their petitions on the validity of the SIR exercise itself. They said the EC was well into conducting SIRs in other parts of the country.

Security personnel after an encounter with Maoists in Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand on Monday. PTI

Three Maoists with ₹1.35-crore bounty killed in Jharkhand

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Three Maoists were killed in an encounter with the security forces in the Pantitri forest area in Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand on Monday.

Hazaribagh Superintendent of Police Anjani Anjan said the encounter broke out around 6 a.m. when the CRPF's 209 CoBRA battalion and the Jharkhand police were carrying out search operations in the forest area.

The slain Maoists were identified as Sahadev Soren, a central committee member carrying a ₹1-crore bounty on his head; Raghunath Hembram, a special area committee member with a ₹25-lakh bounty; and Birsen Ganjhu, a zonal committee member with a bounty of ₹10 lakh.

Three AK-47 rifles were recovered. Search operations are under way and no injury to troops had been reported.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah congratulated the troops on X saying, "Today, in Hazaribagh, a joint team of the CRPF's CoBRA battalion and the State police have achieved a major success in an anti-Naxal operation."

"Following this operation, Naxalism has been completely eradicated from the Bokaro region in northern Jharkhand. Soon, the entire country will be free from the problem of Naxalism," he said.

Prepare for any eventuality, PM tells Defence Ministry

Modi inaugurates Combined Commanders' Conference that will focus on 'transformative reforms' across the armed forces; he lauds them for their role in Operation Sindoor and nation-building

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA/NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday inaugurated the 16th Combined Commanders' Conference (CCC) in Kolkata and asked the Defence Ministry to take "swift" measures to "prevail against any eventuality".

"In line with 2025 being the 'year of reforms' in defence, Prime Minister instructed the Ministry of Defence to swiftly implement concrete steps to achieve greater jointness, *atmanirbharta* (self-reliance) and innovation to meet future challenges and to prevail against any eventuality," the Press Information Bureau (PIB) said in a statement.

Mr. Modi reviewed the security situation and the operational preparedness of the armed forces. "The Prime Minister was briefed on the operational readiness of the forces in the context of the new normal created by Operation Sindoor, future of warfare in the context of emerging technology and tactics," the PIB added.

Taking stock: Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacting with Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan during the Combined Commanders' Conference in Kolkata on Monday. PTI

Based on the theme "Year of Reforms - Transformation for the Future", the conference focuses on driving "transformative reforms" across the forces.

Held once in two years, the CCC is the apex-level brainstorming forum of the forces and brings together the nation's top civilian and military leadership to exchange views.

"Deliberations are being held on a wide range of strategic issues - including force modernisation, jointness, integration and enhancing operational readiness for multi-domain warfare," a statement by a Defence Ministry spokesperson said. It said that Mr. Modi lauded the armed forces for their role in Operation Sindoor and highlighted their contributions towards nation-building, anti-piracy operations, and evacuation of citizens from conflict zones. He unveiled the "Indian Armed Forces Vision 2047" document, "charting the path for a future-ready Indian Armed Forces".

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, and top officials of the three armed forces participated in the conference that will be held over the next two days. The conference will conduct a "holistic review of various structural, administrative and operational matters... preparedness of the armed forces in the face of increasing global uncertainties".

'India behind in politically empowering women'

Sandeep Phukan
TIRUPATI

India is lagging behind in politically empowering women and ranks 148 out of 193 countries when it comes to participation in Parliament, the Governor of Andhra Pradesh Justice S. Abdul Nazeer (Retd) said on Monday.

Justice Nazeer made the remarks in the presence of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla at the valedictory session of the first national conference on parliamentary and legislative committees on the empowerment of women.

"Where women are honoured, divinity flourishes, and where women are dishonoured, nothing becomes fruitful," Justice Nazeer quoted a verse in Sanskrit. The former top court judge also extensively quoted different laws and judgments that seek to protect women. Against that backdrop, he mentioned the passage of the Women's Reservation Bill, which would increase the share women legislators in Parliament and in the State Assemblies.

NH-2 won't reopen till pact is reached with Meitei people: Kuki-Zo Council

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Two days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi concluded his Manipur visit, the Kuki-Zo Council (KZC), which signed an agreement on September 4 with the Union Home Ministry for the reopening of National Highway no. 2, rescinded the pact on Monday.

It said that it will not declare the reopening of the highway till a settlement is reached between the two communities. Ethnic violence between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities, which erupted in May 2023, led to the shutdown of the highway.

The KZC, a conglomerate of Kuki-Zo groups, said in a statement that "as there is still no settlement or agreement to the conflict between the Meitei and the Kuki-Zo communities, no one from either side must cross the buffer zones".

"KZC has not declared the reopening of NH-02. No free movement has been permitted on this route. Our request was only to the people of Kangpokpi to extend cooperation to the security forces, as directed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, in maintaining safety of commuters along NH-02," it said.

National Highway no. 2 is key to bringing essential supplies to the landlocked Imphal Valley. RITU RAJ KONWAR

'Respect buffer zone'

It said the "buffer zone" must be respected at all costs. "Any violation will only lead to serious consequences and further deterioration of peace and security. KZC strongly condemns any attempt to twist or misrepresent our statement. Such deliberate distortion creates unnecessary confusion and mistrust at a sensitive time. We urge the Meitei public to take note of the above facts and act with utmost responsibility," the KZC said.

A senior government official told *The Hindu* that the KZC was playing with words to confuse the people, adding that earlier they said that the buffer zone should remain till their demand for a separate administration were met. "Now they are saying that buffer zones should remain till a settlement or agreement is reached between two communities. This shows that they are willing to hold dialogue with the Meitei groups for cessation of hostilities," the official said.

On September 4, the Home Ministry announced that the KZC had agreed to open the National Highway passing through Kangpokpi district "for the free movement of commuters and essential goods".

The highway is open for regular traffic but members of the Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities are not venturing into each other's zones. Commercial and private vehicles run on the highway that connects the Imphal Valley in Manipur to Dimapur in Nagaland and further to Assam via the hill district of Kangpokpi.

The highway is key to bringing essential supplies to the landlocked Imphal Valley. It is the key road to the airport in Imphal, which the Kuki-Zo people have not been able to access since the violence erupted between the two communities in the State.

Lun Kipgen, spokesperson of Kangpokpi-based Committee on Tribal Unity, said that the Prime Minister's visit to Manipur was nothing but just a stopover after inaugurating some projects in Mizoram.

"The PM is not serious about solving the problem in Manipur. But, at least his visit is symbolic to the Kukis...that his party in the State is responsible for the crisis," Mr. Kipgen said.

Deadline for ITR filing extended by a day

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Income Tax Department on Monday extended the deadline for filing income tax returns (ITRs) for assessment year (AY) 2025-26 by one day to September 16.

The last date for filing ITRs by individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) and those who do not have to get their accounts audited was earlier extended from July 31 to September 15. The Income Tax Department said more than seven crore I-T returns had been filed till evening on Monday.

The extension in the ITR deadline came after chartered accountants and individuals took to social media to complain of glitches on the e-filing portal. The e-filing portal faced huge traffic on Monday.

To enable changes in the utilities, the e-filing portal will remain in maintenance mode from 12 a.m. to 2.30 am on September 16, said the Central Board of Direct Taxes in a statement issued at 11.48 pm on September 15.

Supreme Court expresses concern over non-functional CCTVs at police stations

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said it was considering setting up fully automated control rooms to detect non-functional CCTV cameras at police stations.

A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said such a system could prevent instances of police deliberately switching off cameras or erasing recordings. The judges noted that these concerns persist even when CCTV cameras are installed in compliance with earlier directions and State authorities file affidavits claiming adherence.

"What we were thinking of is a control room in which there is no human intervention. So all feeds are provided to the control room, and if any camera goes off, immediately, there is an alert. That is the way this thing can be tackled," Justice Mehta said.

The Bench said inspections of police stations by an independent agency would be necessary initially. "We may think of involving some IIT to provide us with a software, by which every CCTV feed is monitored at a particular place, and even monitoring should not be human, all by artificial intelligence," it said. The judges further said that any CCTV camera found non-operational should be immediately reported to the legal services authority or the designated oversight body.

In 2020, a Bench led by Justice Rohinton F. Nariman (now retired) in *Paramvir Singh Saini v. Baljit Singh* had directed the Centre to install CCTV cameras and recording equipment at all police stations as a safeguard against custodial torture. However, the court on September 4 took *suo motu* cognisance of a report which said that 11 people had died in police custody over the past eight months.

The Bench also heard submissions from senior advocate Siddhartha Dave, who was appointed *amicus curiae* in the 2020 case. Mr. Dave pointed to a "glaring fact" that the Centre, despite overseeing multiple investigative agencies, had failed to comply with the top court's directions.

Woman held in Delhi BMW crash case sent to judicial custody

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday sent a woman who allegedly drove the BMW car involved in the crash that killed a senior Finance Ministry official and left his wife injured in Dhaula Kuan, to judicial custody for two days.

Duty Magistrate Akanksha Singh sent Gaganpreet Kaur, 38, to judicial custody after she was produced before the judge at her residence, and said her custodial interrogation was not required, her counsel and senior advocate Vikas Pahwa said.

The judge also issued notice to the Delhi Police and the victim's kin on the bail application moved by Ms. Gaganpreet.

The police said she was arrested on culpable homicide not amounting to murder and other charges on Monday after being discharged from a hospital.

Several questions were raised on the handling of the aftermath of the crash.

SC backs move to rid 'waqf by user' of statutory recognition

Top court did not *prima facie* find any substance in the argument that centuries-old lands, graveyards, dargahs and mosques, recognised as Waqfs through long and consistent usage over the years, will be 'grabbed' by the government

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

> We are of the view that if the legislature in 2025 finds that on account of the concept of 'waqf by user', huge government properties have been encroached upon, and to stop the menace, it takes steps for deletion of the provision, the amendment, *prima facie*, cannot be said to be arbitrary
>
> **B.R. GAVAI**
> Chief Justice of India

The Supreme Court said legislative action to rid 'Waqf by user' of statutory recognition and make registration of Waqfs mandatory cannot be termed "arbitrary", considering the "menace" of encroachment on "huge government properties" over the years.

"We are of the view that if the legislature in 2025 finds that on account of the concept of 'Waqf by user', huge government properties have been encroached upon, and to stop the menace, it takes steps for deletion of the provision, the amendment, *prima facie*, cannot be said to be arbitrary," Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, heading a Division Bench, observed in a judgment refusing to stay the entirety of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

The SC verdict referred to how the Andhra Pradesh Waqf Board had notified thousands of acres of land belonging to the government as Waqf property.

The Andhra Pradesh government had failed to get the land back in the High Court, and had to finally appeal to the Supreme Court, which set aside the notification and had held that the lands were vested with the State.

"After noticing such instances of misuse, if the legislature finds that the concept of 'waqf by user' has to be abolished and that too prospectively, in our view, the same cannot *prima facie* be said to be arbitrary," the court reiterated.

Clause (i) of Section 3(r) of the Waqf Act of 1995 had recognised "Waqf by user", which meant a property used for religious or charitable purposes but without any formal written declaration or deed stating its character.

Formal deed must

The 2025 Amendment Act omitted the concept of "waqf by user" and insisted on a formal Waqf deed.

The court noted that mandatory registration of Waqfs was not a new concept. It had been part of the 1995 Waqf law.

"We are, therefore, of the view that if for 30 long years, the Mutawallis [managers of Waqfs] had chosen not to make an application for registration, they cannot be heard to say that the provision which now requires the application to be accompanied by a copy of the Waqf deed is arbitrary," the Chief Justice, who authored the judgment, observed.

The apex court did not *prima facie* find any substance in the petitioners' argument that centuries' old lands, graveyards, dargahs and mosques, which have been recognised as Waqfs through long and consistent usage over the years, would be "grabbed" by the government.

In this regard, the court recorded the assurance given by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared for the Centre, that the deletion of clause (i) of Section 3(r) of the original 1995 Waqf Act would only come into effect prospectively, when the 2025 amendments came into effect.

The Amendment Act was notified on April 8, 2025.

'Misuse of provisions'

The Union government, also represented by advocate Kanu Agrawal, had earlier informed the apex court that "shocking" misuse of Waqf provisions had led to "rampant encroachments" on private and government properties.

The Centre had submitted that encroachments had led to a 116% rise in Waqf lands from 2013 to 2024, a phenomenal high unmatched even in the Mughal period.

"It is submitted that right before even Mughal era, pre-Independence and post-independence eras, the total of Waqfs created was 18,29,163.896 acres of land in India. Shockingly after 2013, in just 11 years, the addition of Waqf land is 20,92,072.536 acres... The figure of 20 lakh acres is additional and not the total figure. The total comes to 39,21,236.459 acres of land," the Minority Affairs Ministry affidavit had submitted in the court in April.

Centre's take

The government had argued that removing the concept of 'waqf by user' in the 2025 amendments did not deprive a Muslim his right to create a Waqf.

"Under the proviso to Section 3[1][r], no trust, deed or any documentary proof has been insisted upon in the amendment or even prior thereto. The only mandatory requirement for being protected under the proviso is that such 'waqf by user' must be registered as on April 8, 2025, as registration has always been mandatory as per the statute governing waqfs since last 100 years," the Centre had said.

Only those who evaded registration to avoid being accountable under a statutory regime or reveal transactions of land dealings would be in trouble, the government had maintained in court.

Opposition welcomes SC order on Waqf Act, says it vindicates their stand

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Opposition on Monday claimed victory over the Supreme Court's judgment that stayed certain provisions of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, claiming that it is a vindication of its stand on a law that was "blatantly unconstitutional" and designed to target a particular community. Had the government paid heed to the Opposition's views, the leaders said, they would have been spared this embarrassment.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, in a post on X, said that the Supreme Court reaffirmed its resolve to protect the rights of minorities.

"The BJP had sought to bulldoze a divisive law, designed solely to inflame communal passions and reopen issues that India had long settled," he said.

Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said that it was a vindication of the Opposition's stand in the dissent notes submitted to the parliamentary panel reviewing the Waqf (Amendment) Act on three clauses. The top court has stayed two of these provisions.

The top court pressed pause on the powers given to a Collector to adjudicate

> The BJP had sought to bulldoze a divisive law, designed solely to inflame communal passions and reopen issues that India had long settled
>
> **MALLIKARJUN KHARGE**
> Congress president

the status of Waqf properties and ruled on the contentious issue of non-Muslim participation in Waqf Boards, directing that the Central Waqf Council should not have more than four non-Muslim members out of 20, and State Waqf Boards not more than three of 11.

"This verdict is yet another tight slap on the face of this government that is solely focused on destroying the Constitution. If they had paid heed to the Opposition's advice given in Parliament, they would have been spared this embarrassment," Mr. Venugopal said, urging a repeal of the law.

Congress Rajya Sabha member Syed Naseer Hussain, who was also part of the panel, thanked the court, saying that the order has struck a balance between reform and representation. Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said that the order goes a "long way towards undoing the mischievous intentions underlying the original statute".

The Left parties also welcomed the order. CPI general secretary D. Raja said the Supreme Court had raised several issues about the law in its present form.

"Unless these are addressed, how can the legislation be implemented? In a way thus, the apex court has put a stay on the legislation. Now it is for the government to respond and Parliament will have to settle the questions raised by the apex court," Mr. Raja said. He is one of the petitioners in the case.

Asaduddin Owaisi, AIMIM leader, said the Act did not offer protection to Waqf properties and sought to reward encroachers. "I believe this is just an interim order, we want the SC to give a final decision on this," he said.

Congress says Centre 'gifted' 1,050 acres in Bihar to Adani

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday accused the Narendra Modi-led BJP government at the Centre of allegedly "gifting" 1,050 acres of land in Bihar's Bhagalpur to the Adani Group for a power plant. They allege that this was done because the BJP anticipates defeat in the upcoming Assembly election.

Addressing a press conference here, the Congress's media and publicity department head, Pawan Khera, claimed that in Bhagalpur's Pirpainti in Bihar, 1,050 acres has been allocated to industrialist Gautam Adani for setting up a power plant at ₹1 per year for 33 years. He also alleged that to prevent protests during Mr. Modi's visit to the area on Monday, villagers have been placed under house arrest.

Muslim bodies call decision on new Waqf law 'victory of the spirit of the Constitution'

Ziya Us Salam
NEW DELHI

Leading Muslim bodies have "cautiously" welcomed the Supreme Court's decision to pause three key provisions in the Waqf (Amendment) Act.

"The interim relief provided by the court has turned our hope into belief that justice is still alive in our country. The Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind will continue its legal and democratic struggle till the black law is repealed," Arshad Madani, president of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, said.

Mr. Madani said the amended waqf law was a "direct attack on the Constitution" that granted "the right to equality and the freedom to practice any religion", adding that the interim relief was "a victory of the spirit of the Constitution."

Syed Qasim Rasool Ilyas

The All India Muslim Personal Law Board's (AIMPLB) spokesman Syed Qasim Rasool Ilyas said that though some of the major contentions of the petitioners had been accepted "to a large extent" by the court, the Board would continue with its "Save Waqf" campaign.

"The Supreme Court's interim order has provided relief on protection of property rights. Waqf properties cannot be dispossessed or altered in official records until a final decision is delivered," Mr. Ilyas said.

He, however, expressed dissatisfaction that the court did not do away with the entire amendment. "We seek the complete repeal of the Waqf (Amendment) Act 2025. The refusal to stay the entire Act leaves numerous other harmful provisions in operation, including the prospective de-recognition of 'waqf by user'," he said.

Navaid Hamid, working president of the All India Majlis-e-Mushawarat, the umbrella body of Muslim organisations, said the judgment was a "reminder to the BJP allies, the TDP and JD(U), that supporting the BJP's unconstitutional moves will bring embarrassment to their politics of convenience."

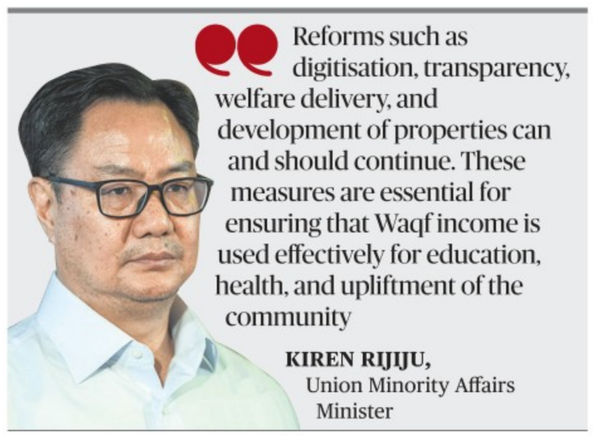
SC order provides clarity that Waqf reforms of govt. stays intact: Rijiju

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Monday welcomed the Supreme Court's judgment on the Waqf (Amendment) Act 2025.

The Minister told *The Hindu* that the order had reaffirmed the importance of the Waqf reforms brought in this year and that the order, overall, provides clarity and reassurance that the reforms introduced by the government remain intact.

The Act remains fully operational and the Waqf properties have been given strong legal protection against dispossession, he said. "Reforms such as digitisation, transparency, welfare delivery, and development of properties can and should continue. These measures are essential for ensuring that waqf income is used effectively for education, health, and upliftment of the community," he added.



> Reforms such as digitisation, transparency, welfare delivery, and development of properties can and should continue. These measures are essential for ensuring that Waqf income is used effectively for education, health, and upliftment of the community
>
> **KIREN RIJIJU,**
> Union Minority Affairs Minister

He stressed that the Ministry will fully comply with the court's directions, and continue to work closely with State Waqf Boards and the Central Waqf Council to implement reforms in a transparent, participatory, and constitutionally compliant manner.

"I believe that whatever the apex court has ruled is a very good sign for our democracy," said Mr. Rijiju who was in Mumbai to lay the foundation stone for the construction of the Centre of Excellence in Heritage Language & Cultural Studies at University of Mumbai to promote research and preserve heritage traditions.

Mr. Rijiju, however, added that all the provisions included in the Waqf Act were beneficial to the entire Muslim community. The Bill will stop the misuse and encroachment of property through the Waqf Board, he said.

The SC on Monday declined to stay the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, entirely, but it put on hold several key provisions of the Act, including the clause that only those practising Islam for the last five years can dedicate their property as Waqf.

The top court also declined to keep the implementation of the provision, which mandated that a waqf property under dispute and subject to an enquiry by a designated officer of the government, would lose its status and character of a waqf asset until the official submitted a report. The court also said that waqf councils will not have more than four non-Muslim members out of a total 20.

'Animal acquisitions as per law': SIT formed by top court gives clean chit to Vantara

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

A Supreme Court-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT), constituted to conduct an "independent factual appraisal" of complaints against Reliance-owned Vantara, a zoological rescue and rehabilitation centre in Jamnagar, Gujarat, has found no statutory irregularities in the acquisition of animals.

The SIT, headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice J. Chelameswar, concluded that the acquisitions were in accordance with regulatory laws and recorded the satisfaction of authorities on all statutory compliance.

An elephant being cared for at Vantara in Jamnagar.

A Bench of Justices Pankaj Mithal and Prasanna B. Varale noted that the SIT had undertaken a "thorough and extensive investigation" into the complaints and said it had "no hesitation in accepting the conclusion so drawn in the report".

"The imports of the animals have been made only after issuance of valid permits. Once the imports of animals is fully documented and supported by valid permits, it is not open for anyone to go beyond the said permits and to dispute the validity attached to such permits or official acts," the court said. The Bench further said that on a perusal of the SIT report, it was "satisfied" with Vantara's practices.

Addressing allegations of misuse of carbon credits, water resources, and financial impropriety, the court said the SIT had found them to be baseless, relying upon responses from agencies such as the CBI, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, and ED.

The court was hearing two petitions filed by advocates C.R. Jaya Sukin and Dev Sharma, who had alleged irregularities at Vantara on the basis of media reports, social media posts, and complaints from NGOs and wildlife organisations regarding alleged violations of law and the acquisition of animals from India and abroad, particularly elephants.

The court had instructed the special team to look into grievances raised about the "creation of a vanity or private collection, breeding, conservation programmes and use of biodiversity resources, misutilisation of water and carbon credits, breach of laws of trade in animals or animal articles, wildlife smuggling and money laundering."

ED has a conviction rate of over 94% in PMLA cases: agency

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday said the agency has secured convictions in 50 of the 53 cases in the special courts under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), achieving a conviction rate of more than 94%, and facilitated restitution of assets worth over ₹34,000 crore to victims and legitimate claimants.

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED VIROLOGY
GeM PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Name of the item:
ISOTHERMAL TITRATION CALORIMETER
GeM Bid Number : GEM/2025/B/6625102
Quantity : 1 (One)
Pre Bid Meeting Date : 22.09.2025, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, (Hybrid Mode)
Last Date of Bid Submission: 06.10.2025, 18.00pm
For further details please visit: www.iav.kerala.gov.in, purchase@iav.res.in
Sd/- Director

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, MEDICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING, UTTAR PRADESH, 6th FLOOR, JAWAHAR BHAWAN, LUCKNOW.

No. ME-3/2025/2240 Lucknow : Dated 15/09/2025

-:: REVISED TIME SCHEDULE FOR "SECOND ROUND" OF UP NEET UG COUNSELING 2025 (M.B.B.S./B.D.S.) ::-

In accordance with the revised schedule issued by the Medical Counseling Committee (MCC), New Delhi for the NEET UG course, the **revised schedule for the second round** of online counseling for admission to state quota seats in undergraduate courses (MBBS/BDS) in government/private medical/dental colleges/institutions/medical universities is as follows :-

S.No.	Description	Dates	Total Days
1.	Date of online registration and uploading of documents	**From:-** 10-09-2025 **To:-** 18-09-2025 (11:00 AM)	08 days
2.	Date of depositing registration and security money	**From:-** 10-09-2025 **To:-** 18-09-2025 (02:00 PM)	08 days
3.	Date of merit list declaration	**On:-** 19-09-2025	01 days
4.	Date of On-line Choice filling	**From:-** 19-09-2025 (05:00 PM) **To:-** 23-09-2025 (11:00 AM)	04 days
5.	Date of Allotment Result Declaration	**On:-** 24-09-2025	01 days
6.	Date for downloading the allotment letters & Admission	**From:-** 25-09-2025 **To:-** 27-09-2025 **& From:-** 29-09-2025 **To:-** 30-09-2025 **& On:-** 03-10-2025	06 days

- As per the instructions contained in the government order/brochure of **UP NEET UG 2025,** candidates should assess their eligibility themselves.
- Only those candidates will be eligible for choice filling who have completed the online registration process, whose original documents have been verified online, and who have deposited the required security amount.
- **The UP NEET UG 2025** information booklet (brochure) and important instructions are available on the **websites www.upneet.in** and **www.dgme.up.gov.in,** Keep checking websites regularly for updated information.
- The said counseling will be subject to the final orders passed by the Hon'ble High Court, Allahabad, Lucknow Bench, in Special Appeal No. 295/2025, Uttar Pradesh State & Others vs. Sabra Ahmad.
- **Other terms and conditions will remain same.**
- Helpline Numbers: **8189011696, 8189011697, 8189011698, 8189011699, 8189011700**

DIRECTOR GENERAL

INBRIEF

PM to launch campaign for women and child healthcare

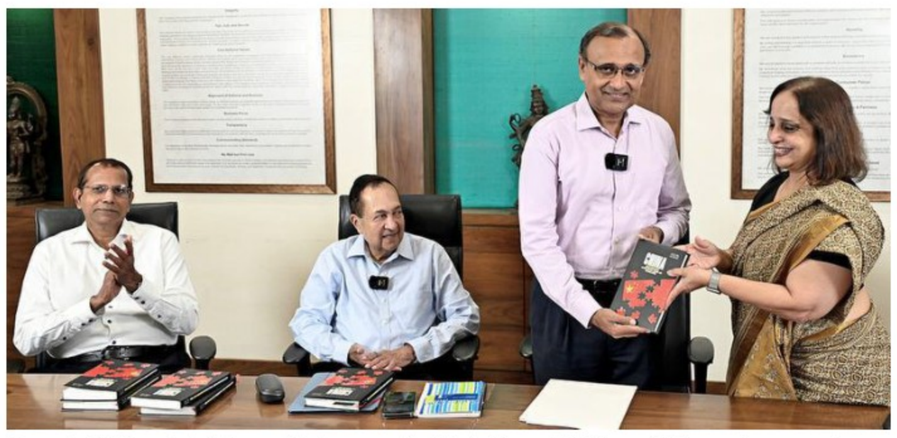
In an effort to improve healthcare service, the Centre is set to launch the 'Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan' (healthy woman, strong family campaign), along with the eighth 'Poshan Maah' (nutrition month) on September 17. Prime Minister Modi will launch the initiative jointly led by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Railways gives Aadhaar users 15-minute booking edge

The Indian Railways has said that from October 1, only Aadhaar-authenticated users will be able to book reserved general tickets during the first 15 minutes of the opening of general reservation. The tickets can be booked through the website of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and its app.

China's rise as potential superpower changing complexion of ties; India needs more nuanced policies, says Tirumurti

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI



(From right) Nirmala Lakshman, Chairperson, The Hindu Group; T.S. Tirumurti, former Permanent Representative of India to the UN; N. Ram, Director, The Hindu Group; and B. Santhanam, Independent Director, The Hindu Group; at the release of a book on China in Chennai on Monday. R. RAGU

While India-China relations as neighbours, after 1962, had entered a "normal" that held up till recently, China's rise as a potential superpower was changing the complexion of bilateral ties, T.S. Tirumurti, former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, said here on Monday.

At the launch of the book *China: Indian Perspectives on China's Politics, Economy, and Foreign Relations,* brought out by The Hindu Group Publishing Private Ltd., Mr. Tirumurti said China's rise as a potential superpower meant that for the first time, India was sharing a border with a superpower, which changed the complexion of their relationship.

"The old template is not enough, and we need to develop a new one to deal with China in both these avatars," he said. "India needs to put in place a far more nuanced set of policies rather than just merely predicating our relations on the progress on the border issue as a barometer of good relations." There was also a need to look at some hard issues such as trade imbalance, access to Indian goods and services, and de-escalation, before a new normal is reached, he said.

Curated by Ananth Krishnan, Director, The Hindu Group, the book has 12 in-depth essays from former diplomats, business representatives, and scholars, covering topics such as the political trends in China, its tech landscape, economy and trade, evolution of India-China relations, and China's military modernisation.

Mr. Krishnan said the book offered a timely snapshot of the goings-on in China as it dealt with multiple trends – going up the tech value chain rapidly but facing enormous economic problems, and dealing with geopolitical challenges with tensions with the U.S. and some neighbours, while having success in spreading its influence in Central Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Intractable issue

N. Ram, Director, The Hindu Group, said a real breakthrough in India-China relations post-1962 occurred when then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi visited China in 1988, setting the path for bilateral trade which increased from $600 million in the early 1990s to $140 billion now.

The boundary row, he said, was an intractable issue that would take long to resolve in view of domestic constraints in policymaking on both sides.

Nirmala Lakshman, Chairperson, The Hindu Group, said the book became important especially in view of the changing order of the world that had provided an opportunity to look at China in a new paradigm.

B. Santhanam, Independent Director, The Hindu Group, said entrepreneurs in China had deep, hands-on technical expertise in their domains and always focused on full stack development. As India attempted to go up the value chain of semiconductors, solar power, energy, or mobility, an entrepreneurial perspective, he felt, was more important than a state's policy-driven objective dominating the thought process.

Suresh Nambath, Editor, *The Hindu*; Narayan Lakshman, Opinion Page Editor, *The Hindu*; and Stanly Johny, International Affairs Editor, *The Hindu*; spoke.

TIRUMURTI INTERVIEW
» WORLD PAGE

UGC gets 8 weeks to include norms on tackling caste bias

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday directed the University Grants Commission (UGC) to consider the suggestions received from stakeholders on tackling caste-based discrimination at higher education institutions and to incorporate them into the University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2025, within eight weeks.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi was hearing a petition filed six years ago by the mothers of Rohith Vemula and Payal Tadvi, represented by senior advocate Indira Jaising and advocates Prasanna S. and Disha Wadekar. The petition sought urgent measures against what the petitioners described as "rampant" caste discrimination in universities, which they said had claimed their children's lives.

Rohith Vemula, a Ph.D. scholar at Hyderabad Central University, and Payal Tadvi, a tribal student of T.N. Topiwala National Medical College, died by suicide in January 2016 and May 2019, respectively, after facing caste-based bias on campus.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Union government, informed the court that nearly 391 suggestions had been received on the 2025 Regulations. He added that a UGC-appointed expert committee chaired by Shailesh N. Zala, former Vice-Chancellor of Maharaja Krishnakumar Sinhji Bhavnagar University in Gujarat, had forwarded them to the UGC for consideration.

Ms. Jaising, appearing for the petitioners, told the court that there had been an undue delay in addressing the remedies sought and that several students had died by suicide in the meantime. Justice Kant noted that Ms. Jaising's written note submitted to the court had summarised 10 core issues that needed to be addressed, including a clear ban on discriminatory practices, mental health counselling, and social audits.

When Ms. Jaising pointed out that a timeline should be fixed in this "eternal exercise" so that students do not face caste bias in the meantime, the Bench assured her that an eight-week deadline would be imposed.

Kashmir's fruit markets shut down over highway closure

Parcel train service launched to take apples from Valley to New Delhi; however, fruit growers say it is inadequate as huge stocks remain stranded on roads; CM blames Centre for delay in road work

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurates the train service to take apples from the Kashmir Valley to New Delhi. IMRAN NISSAR

Fruit markets across the Kashmir Valley remained closed on Monday in protest against the government's failure to reopen the 290-km Srinagar-Jammu National Highway even after two weeks of closure due to heavy rain. Facing a public outcry, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah blamed the Centre for the losses the apple industry continues to face in the Valley.

Hundreds of fruit growers took to the streets in the Kashmir Valley and closed the markets operating in north, central and south Kashmir. "Our patience is running thin. Trucks laden with apple produce are rotting in front of our eyes. It's not Nature's fury but a man-made disaster. Rains have stopped but the officials have failed to re-open the highway even after 15 days of closure," Fayaz Dar, an apple dealer in north Kashmir's Sopore mandi, said.

According to the apple traders, the cost of an apple box has dropped from ₹600 to ₹400 due to failure to ferry them in time to markets across the country. "The government and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) should urgently ensure smooth passage for trucks and compensate farmers for the losses incurred," Zahoor Ahmad Rather, senior member of the J&K Apple Farmers Federation, said.

Economy mainstay

According to the J&K Economic Survey 2023-24, the horticulture sector, with apple as its mainstay, contributes about 6-7% to the Gross State Domestic Product of J&K and employs 35 lakh people directly or indirectly.

"The new freight train service is a big step for the apple growers of the Union Territory to transport their produce to different parts of the country. This will provide a faster and more economical transportation mode, strengthen market linkages and bring improvement in the lives and livelihoods of farmers," said J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha, as he flagged off a parcel train from Budgam to Adarsh Nagar Delhi on Monday.

The parcel train service will be operational on all days and is suitable for all parcel commodities. The eight-parcel-van coach train has a total weight capacity of around 180 tonnes (23 tonnes per coach).

With the parcel train service inadequate to deal with the crisis of farmers, J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah blamed the Centre for failing to open the Srinagar-Jammu highway, key to ferry essentials into the Valley and export fruits. He has faced severe criticism from Opposition parties in J&K over the issue.

"The highway comes under the jurisdiction of the Central government and agencies working under it. If they cannot handle it, then let them hand it over to us. We have engineers and staff who can restore the road. If this highway was under my administration, we would have already worked out a solution," the Chief Minister said.

He added that he had spoken to Union Minister Nitin Gadkari late Monday evening and some concrete measures would be taken in the next 24 hours.

India gets licence to scour Indian Ocean for precious metals

Jacob Koshy
COPENHAGEN

India has bagged an exploration contract from the International Seabed Authority (ISA) to look for a class of precious metals in the northwest Indian Ocean.

This is the first licence granted globally for exploring polymetallic sulphur nodules in the Carlsberg Ridge, M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, told *The Hindu*.

The agreement with the Jamaica-based ISA was signed in Delhi on Monday, he added.

These nodules are concentrations of rock found in the deep ocean and said to be rich in manganese, cobalt, nickel, and copper.

The Carlsberg Ridge is a 3,00,000-sq.km stretch that lies in the Indian Ocean, specifically in the Arabian Sea and northwest Indian Ocean. It forms the boundary between the Indian and Arabian tectonic plates, extending from near Rodrigues Island to the Owen fracture zone.

For exploration in areas part of the 'high seas' or part of the ocean that is so far away from any country, that it is not part of their territories, countries must obtain permission from the ISA. Currently, 19 countries have such exploration rights.

India too had applied in January 2024 for exploration rights in two regions of the Indian Ocean. While one in the Carlsberg Ridge has been granted, the second - the Afanasy-Nikitin Sea (ANS) mount - is yet to be approved. The ANS is located in the Central Indian Ocean, and the territory has been claimed by Sri Lanka for exploration rights. While countries can claim up to 350 nautical miles from their coasts as their 'continental shelf', those in the Bay of Bengal can, in theory, claim up to 500 nautical miles as per the United Nations Convention on the Laws of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Earlier exploration

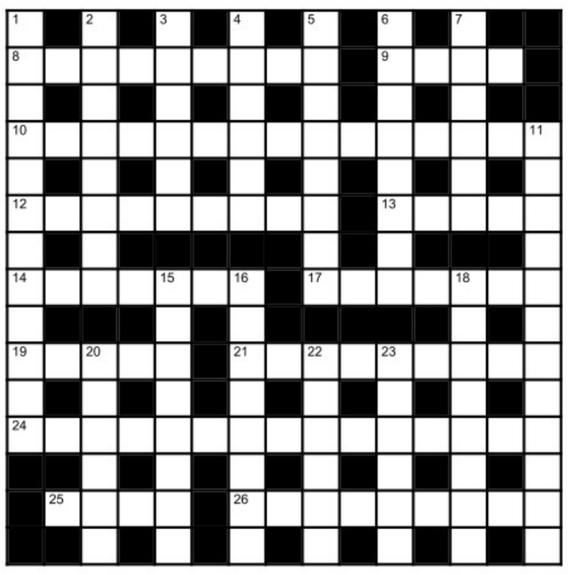
Previously, India had obtained such exploratory rights from the ISA in the Central Indian Ocean Basin. The first was signed in March 2002 and is set to expire on March 24, 2027, after two extensions. The second was for polymetallic sulphides in the Indian Ocean Ridge. It was signed on September 26, 2016, with validity till September 2031.

TH CROSSWORD + 14590

(set by Crescent)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 List cheat rips, throws, jumps and runs? (9)
9 Force breaking set lifting action (4)
10 Be blatant and take French leave? (2,7,6)
12 A case of regulation in code possibly? (9)
13 Well-padded robe seamstress hems (5)
14 Advance of one million initially paid, balance to follow (7)
17 Last month's boring old chestnut for example? (7)
19 Back to one's tongue (5)
21 Topping choice by pope in liberal circles (9)
24 Minor error margin, frequently enough, set tight limits (4,2,3,6)
25 Present judge picked up (4)
26 Unlikely it is clear? Very likely (9)

Down

1 Big shot involved with grant caught red-handed (4,2,6)
2 Nervous man, married, captivated by prize (6,2)
3 Gas masks with time becoming standard unit for force (6)
4 Renounce one jamming Democratic broadcast (6)
5 Wonder about holding pose so to speak (2,2,4)
6 Empty box catches attention (5,3)
7 Twin murder in State Department (6)
11 Number that is ringing in emergency rousing operator in the background (4,8)
15 Musical passages reflecting taste in English lyrics (8)
16 Track information sources delivering a history checked by banks (8)
18 Stretch scandal involving Musk? (8)
20 New upset spiked (6)
22 Fork out ahead? Jimmy throttles up to take off (6)
23 Parthenos island takes part in proposed Greek Cypriot union (6)

SUDOKU

5	8					1		
9		7		1		3		
			7	2				9
8			9					3
	5			8			9	
3					1			4
2				3	7			
		1		5		4		2
		5					3	6

No.SS6643 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

A	V	I	A	T	E		B	A	D	L	O	S	E	R
U		N		R		K		S		Y		K		U
D	E	F	E	A	T	I	S	T		I	L	I	A	D
A		A		D		T		H		N		R		D
C	A	R	D	I	A	C		E	N	G	A	R	D	E
I		C		T		H		C				E		R
T	U	T	T	I		E	V	A	C	U	A	T	E	
Y				O		N		S		N				P
	B	A	R	N	A	C	L	E		C	U	T	I	E
A		I				A		M		E		R		N
P	E	R	T	U	R	B		A	R	R	A	I	G	N
N		S		S		I		Y		T		N		A
O	C	H	R	E		N	E	B	R	A	S	K	A	N
E		I		R		E		E		I		E		T
A	P	P	O	S	I	T	E		U	N	I	T	E	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	1	3	2	4	8	6	9	7
2	8	7	3	6	9	4	1	5
6	9	4	7	5	1	8	2	3
4	3	8	5	1	7	2	6	9
7	6	1	8	9	2	3	5	4
9	5	2	6	3	4	7	8	1
3	7	5	9	2	6	1	4	8
8	4	6	1	7	5	9	3	2
1	2	9	4	8	3	5	7	6

FAITH

The eternal Ramayana

In Brahma Loka, the Ramayana was recited in a hundred crore verses, but sage Narada condensed it into a hundred verses as the Sankshepa Ramayanam, and narrated it to sage Valmiki. The upadesa (teaching) of sage Narada to Valmiki was like a seed that grew within him, inspiring deep reflection. Later, Brahma appeared and asked Valmiki to expand upon the brief version.

Kesava Vajapeya Swamy said in a discourse that, initially, Valmiki hesitated and doubted his ability to write the Ramayana as he knew nothing about it. However, Brahma blessed him, assuring that the events would appear before him like scenes, enabling him to write effortlessly. Brahma also told Valmiki that his Ramayana would contain only the truth, free from any falsehood, and would remain eternal. Feeling deeply blessed, Valmiki joyfully began writing, with inspiration flowing like the river Ganga.

Poet Kalidasa compared Valmiki to a great ship sailing across the vast sea of the Ramayana, while he saw himself as only a small boat attempting to cross it.

After completing the Ramayana, Valmiki wondered whom he could share it with. Then he met Rama's sons, Kusa and Lava, who gave him great joy. Valmiki brought the children to Rama's court hall to recite the Ramayana. Rama listened attentively and was incredibly delighted. Kusa and Lava recited the Ramayana there for 32 days.

The Ramayana can be recited in various ways, over a month, a fortnight, nine days, a week, or from one Tamil star, Punarvasu, to the next. Reading or listening to the Ramayana is said to bring peace, happiness, prosperity, unity in the family, and friendliness.

INBRIEF

'PhonePe's Indus Appstore installed in 10 crore devices'

PhonePe's Indus Appstore, the firm's domestic alternative to Google Play and Apple's App Store, is installed on 10 crore devices, the company announced on Monday. The milestone has been possible due to agreements the firm struck with phone makers like Xiaomi and Alcatel, which allowed it to be pre-installed on handsets. Since its unveiling, the store has been able to offer apps distributed elsewhere, as it relies on aggregators authorised by most app developers.

Canara Robeco, Hero Motors among 6 to get nod for IPOs

Six firms, including Canara Robeco Asset Management Company and Hero Motors, have secured SEBI's approval to float Initial public offerings (IPOs), according to an update from the markets regulator on Monday. Solar equipment manufacturer Emmvee Photovoltaic Power, fintech major Pine Labs, banking and smart card manufacturer Manipal Payment and Identity Solutions, and MTR Foods owner Orkla India also received the green light to float IPOs. PTI

L&T bags 'large' order for bullet train project

Larsen and Toubro (L&T) on Monday said it had bagged a large order for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project. The company classifies a contract worth ₹2,500-5,000 crore as a large order. L&T said its Transportation Infrastructure business has secured the order from National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd. (NHSRCL) to construct 156 route km of high-speed ballastless track (Package T1) for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) corridor. PTI

U.S. chief negotiator, Indian counterpart to talk trade today

Not an 'official' round of negotiations, but definitely a discussion on trade talks and to see how we can reach an agreement, says Rajesh Agrawal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As a "continuation" of trade talks between India and the U.S., India will host the U.S. chief negotiator Brendan Lynch for a one-day meeting with India's chief negotiator Rajesh Agrawal, Mr. Agrawal said on Monday.

This follows developments earlier this month, when U.S. President Donald Trump spoke about the "special relationship" the U.S. shares with India, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi "fully reciprocated" the sentiment.

These friendly overtures came at a time when the U.S. has imposed a total tariff of 50% on imports from India, which derailed the negotiations on a Bilateral Trade Agreement between the two countries. The latest round of negotiations was to take place during the last week of August, but was indefinitely postponed following the levy of the two-part tariffs on India.

Trade diplomacy: A file photo of U.S. chief negotiator Brendan Lynch (centre). X/@USIBC

"The chief negotiator of the U.S. is visiting India tonight [September 15] and tomorrow we will be holding talks through the day," Mr. Agrawal said at a press briefing. "This is not an official 'round' of negotiations but it will definitely be a discussion on the trade talks and on trying to see how we can reach an agreement between India and the U.S," he added.

Mr. Agrawal said that India and the U.S. have been engaged in discussions at various levels – ranging from the team of negotiators to even at the Ministerial level – and so Tuesday's meeting should be seen as a "continuation" of the talks.

'AI-led efficiencies can contribute to 8% GDP growth target'

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Skilling workers whose roles are threatened by AI is key, NITI Aayog said in the report

Artificial Intelligence-led efficiencies in industries could be key in contributing to an annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate of 8% in the coming years, NITI Aayog said in a report on Monday.

"Accelerating AI adoption across industries to improve productivity and efficiency could bridge 30-35% of the gap between the current rate of growth and the 8% target," the public policy think tank said in the report.

Individual industries must leverage AI to introduce efficiencies; candidates that are primed for this include pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, automobiles and financial services, it said.

"AI has reduced the cost of producing the next molecule [for the pharmaceutical industry] by approximately 10 times and crashed the time that it takes – roughly 10 years – by roughly 50%," Koshir Daka, a senior partner at McKinsey said at the report unveiling, adding that this could give India an opening to invent a clutch of drugs at a global stage in the near future.

The unveiling is among a series of events building up to February 2026's AI Impact Summit, to be hosted by India.

"The impact that AI can have, not just on India's economy but the global economy, is so profound and so significant that we need to take the leadership position in this area," IT Secretary S. Krishnan said.

Skilling workers whose roles are threatened by AI is key, the report said, recommending "mapping job shifts annually, embedding lifelong learning into career pathways, scaling MSME digital upskilling, and protecting gig and platform workers."

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	81,786	-0.15
US Dollar	88.16	0.11
Gold	1,13,300	-0.43
Brent oil	67.43	–

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2383.40	-8.60
Adani Ports	1395.20	2.10
Apollo Hosp	7816.50	-58.00
Asian Paints	2502.60	-43.70
Axis Bank	1104.40	-0.90
Bajaj Auto	9025.00	25.50
Bajaj Finserv	2080.00	-1.50
Bajaj Finance	1009.85	6.60
Bharat Elec	398.45	-0.85
Bharti Airtel	1904.50	1.90
Cipla	1548.30	-26.30
Coal India	394.75	0.40
Dr Reddys Lab	1300.80	-15.90
Eicher Motors	6801.00	-74.00
Eternal Ltd.	323.30	1.90
Grasim Ind	2802.40	0.40
HCL Tech	1466.50	-0.70
HDFC Bank	967.05	-0.25
HDFC Life	777.20	-2.45
Hero MotoCorp	5288.50	-13.00
Hindalco	753.65	-4.40
Hind Unilever	2581.00	0.50
ICICI Bank	1419.40	1.70
IndusInd Bank	739.90	-0.60
Infosys	1508.40	-17.20
ITC	412.65	-1.10
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	315.35	4.15
JSW Steel	1100.90	1.90
Kotak Bank	1970.80	-1.50
L&T	3586.20	6.40
M&M	3530.30	-59.60
Maruti Suzuki	15265.00	-60.00
NestleIndia	1212.50	-5.10
NTPC	331.10	-0.60
ONGC	232.26	-0.99
PowerGrid Corp	286.25	-1.40
Reliance Ind	1399.30	4.30
SBI Life	1822.20	-8.00
State Bank	824.75	1.20
Shriram Finance Ltd.	623.65	-9.20
Sun Pharma	1602.00	-14.60
TataConsumerProduct	1102.60	-1.30
Tata Motors	712.90	-2.35
Tata Steel	169.23	-0.55
TCS	3111.90	-21.50
Tech Mahindra	1519.80	-5.70
Titan	3534.10	-37.80
Trent Ltd.	5133.00	3.00
UltraTech Cement	12435.00	65.00
Wipro	251.28	-0.66

WPI inflation in Aug. at four-month high of 0.52%

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Wholesale price inflation rose to a four-month high of 0.52% in August as prices of food articles and manufactured items inched up, even as fuel and power basket witnessed easing.

Reversing the deflationary trend of the past two months, (-) 0.58 in July and (-) 0.19% in June, the WPI-based inflation rose to its highest level since April, when it was 0.85%. It was 1.25% in August last year.

Sixth tranche of auction for critical, strategic minerals to kick off today

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

The sixth tranche of auction for critical and strategic minerals will be unveiled on Tuesday, the Ministry of Mines said on Monday.

The latest round would feature four mineral blocks, where full-fledged mining operations can be undertaken alongside 19 blocks with a prospecting licence-cum-mining lease, and can thereafter commence mining. Stationed across "multiple States", the mines housed several minerals including rare-earths, tungsten, lithium, cobalt, gallium, potash, among others, the Ministry informed.

Ola files PLI claim of ₹400 cr.

Ola Electric has filed a claim of around ₹400 crore incentive under the government's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, reinforcing its compliance with rigorous localisation and regulatory requirements, according to sources. PTI

THE HINDU GROUP

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CHIEF GUEST
Shri Hardeep Singh Puri
Honourable Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India

TIME 6 pm Onwards
DATE September 26
LOCATION Mumbai

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JERUSALEM

U.S. will steadfastly back its ally in Gaza war, says Rubio on Israel visit

AP

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Monday, during a visit to Israel, that Washington would remain steadfast in its support for its ally in the Gaza war. Mr. Rubio criticised plans by Western nations to recognise a Palestinian state. Mr. Rubio also said that he would discuss with Mr. Netanyahu Israeli plans to seize Gaza City. AFP

BEIJING

China says U.S. firm Nvidia 'flouted' anti-trust law, vows extra probe

REUTERS

China said on Monday that a probe found that U.S. chip giant Nvidia had run afoul of the country's anti-trust rules, and vowed an additional probe just after trade talks between Beijing and Washington entered a second day. Beijing is engaged in a contest with the U.S. for supremacy in the field of semiconductors. AFP

PESHAWAR

Pakistan 'kills 31 militants' in the northwest as TTP offers dialogue

REUTERS

Pakistan's security forces raided two separate militant hideouts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the country's northwest, killing 31 insurgents. In a surprise move, the Pakistani Taliban, under the group TTP, offered to hold talks with the Pakistani government to address the "root causes" of two decades of conflict. AP

LOS ANGELES

Adolescence and *The Studio* win big at television's Emmy Awards

AFP

Teen murder saga *Adolescence* was the big winner at the Emmy Awards, claiming eight prizes including best limited series, while *The Pitt* prevailed in a tight race for best drama at television's equivalent of the Oscars. Seth Rogen's *The Studio* dominated comedy categories with 13 Emmys — a record for comedies. AFP

Deal reached over future of TikTok, says Trump

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump has posted on his social media site that a meeting between the U.S. and Chinese officials went well and that a deal was reached regarding "a 'certain' company that young people in our Country very much wanted to save."

Mr. Trump's comment suggests that the company is TikTok, the social media company associated with China, that U.S. law requires to be sold or else cease operations.

The Republican President has repeatedly extended the deadline on TikTok's fate and was noncommittal on an agreement when asked by reporters on Sunday evening. Mr. Trump also said that he would be speaking on Friday with Chinese leader Xi Jinping. There was no immediate confirmation from China.

TikTok is one of more than 100 apps developed in the past decade by ByteDance, a technology firm founded in 2012 by Chinese entrepreneur Zhang Yiming and headquartered in Beijing's northwestern Haidian district.

TikTok gained more traction during the shutdowns of the COVID-19 pandemic, when short dances that went viral became a mainstay of the app.

Trump to arrive in the U.K. as Starmer's leadership is tested

The U.K. and the U.S. will sign a nuclear energy deal, part of which will facilitate the building of small modular reactors through multinational partnerships, and a tech cooperation agreement

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

U.S. President Donald Trump is due to arrive on an unprecedented state visit to the U.K. on Tuesday as Prime Minister Keir Starmer tries to manage growing dissatisfaction within his party over his leadership.

Mr. Trump and U.S. First Lady Melania Trump are due to arrive in London on Tuesday evening and travel to Windsor Castle, outside London, where they will spend the night.

Wednesday's events are largely ceremonial: Britain's monarch King Charles III and Queen Camilla will welcome their American guests at a reception and the party will take an open-carriage ride. Mr. Trump will visit the tomb of Queen Elizabeth II and attend a State banquet on Wednesday night.

The monarchy is being deployed to bolster U.K.-U.S. ties, with Mr. Trump being a professed fan of the Royal Family. The President described the king as "a beautiful man, a wonderful man" when he was presented with an invitation for the state visit by Mr. Starmer, when the Prime Minister visited the White House in February. Mr. Starmer has emphasised – as has Mr. Trump – that this is an unprecedented second state visit for a U.S. President. The Trumps were hosted by the late British monarch, Elizabeth II, and her husband, Prince Phillip, in 2019, under Boris Johnson's Conservative government.

Well begun: The U.K has secured relatively favourable trade terms with the U.S. compared with India and the EU. REUTERS

The U.K has secured relatively favourable trade terms with the U.S. compared to India (which faces 50% tariffs) and the EU. The U.K.'s 'reciprocal tariff' rate for its U.S. exports is at the base level of 10%, but some goods such as steel and aluminium are tariffed at a higher rate under Section 232 (the U.K. still faces 25% tariffs for these goods with other countries facing up to 50%). These tariffs are likely to be finalised on Thursday, when Mr. Starmer hosts Mr. Trump for bilateral talks at his official country residence, Chequers.

The meeting comes days after the Prime Minister was compelled to fire the British Ambassador to Washington, Peter Mandelson, whose links to convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, were closer than previously thought. The extent of Mr. Trump's own links with Epstein have become the subject of scrutiny in Washington.

Under threat

The visit also comes as Mr. Starmer's political fortunes have been under threat. Days before the Mandelson scandal, Starmer-ally and Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner resigned for not paying enough tax on a house. This resulted in a hasty Cabinet reshuffle. Mr. Starmer's long-term prospects in No.10 Downing Street has since become uncertain, as per reports in the British press, with trade unions and Labour MPs growing increasingly discontent with his delivery track record.

The U.K. and the U.S. would sign a nuclear energy deal, part of which will facilitate the building of small modular reactors through multinational partnerships, the U.K. government announced on Monday. The countries are also expected to sign a tech partnership spanning the AI, quantum computing and semiconductor sectors, among others. OpenAI CEO Sam Altman and Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang are expected to accompany Mr. Trump on the visit.

Elon Musk, founder of tech giant X Corp. and former Trump inner-circle member, will not be on the trip. Mr. Musk issued a call to violence over the weekend, as he delivered a video message during a 'Unite the Kingdom' protest organised by far right leader Tommy Robinson.

Mr. Musk had asked protestors to push back against immigration and to "fight back or die" as he called for a general election. Downing Street condemned Mr. Musk's words on Monday.

Nepal PM expands Cabinet with three new Ministers, orders probe into violence

Sanjeev Satgainya
KATHMANDU

Nepal President Ram Chandra Poudel administered the oath of office to three newly inducted Ministers in the interim Cabinet led by Prime Minister Sushila Karki on Monday.

Two days after her appointment, Ms. Karki on Sunday formed the Cabinet with Rameshore Khanal, Kulman Ghising, and Om Prakash Aryal as Finance Minister, Energy Minister, and Home Minister, respectively.

Ms. Karki, Nepal's first woman Chief Justice, also became the first woman to lead the country last week after nationwide anti-corruption protests, launched by the youth, killed at least 72 people and led to the fall of the K.P. Sharma Oli government.

The first Cabinet meeting on Monday evening decided to declare all those killed during the youth movement, dubbed Gen Z protests, martyrs.

The meeting also decided to declare a public holiday on Wednesday in memory of those who lost their lives.

In another decision, the Cabinet agreed to form a judicial commission to investigate violent incidents during the two-day protests.

"We have agreed in principle to form such a commission," newly appointed Home Minister Aryal said after the meeting. "Who will be on the commission and its formation will be decided later."

(from left) Rameshore Khanal, Kulman Ghising, and Om Prakash Aryal at the presidential building in Kathmandu on Monday. REUTERS

As Ms. Karki, according to sources, plans to form an 11-member Cabinet, more appointments are expected in the coming days. The Karki government is mandated to hold elections on March 5, 2026.

Economic reforms

Mr. Khanal, 55, is a former Finance Secretary who recently submitted a recommendation of over 400 pages to the erstwhile Oli Government, outlining economic reforms.

After assuming office as Finance Minister, Mr. Khanal said he would implement the recommendations he had made for economic reforms.

He made national headlines in 2011 when he abruptly resigned as Finance Secretary, citing political pressure from business groups resisting investigations into the fake VAT Bill scam.

Energy Minister Ghising, 54, is the former Executive Director of the Nepal Electricity Authority, and is widely credited with ending Nepal's chronic power outages.

A graduate in Electrical Engineering from NIT Jamshedpur, Mr. Ghising holds a master's degree in Power System Engineering from Pulchowk Engineering Campus, Nepal.

Home Minister Aryal, 49, is a Supreme Court advocate known for challenging corruption and filing high-profile public interest litigation.

A close confidant of PM Karki, Mr. Aryal played a key role in her behind-the-scenes negotiations with President Poudel to resolve the stand-off over House dissolution last week.

'India is keen to preserve its ties with U.S., but not at any cost'

'As a rising power, India needs to be proactive; it has been second to none in contributing to the global commons such as vaccine maitri during COVID-19 or in combating climate change. However, the world expects India to play a bigger role in conflicts and geopolitics; we need to get our geopolitics right,' says the former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations

INTERVIEW

T.S. Tirumurti

Stanly Johny

The U.S. has to decide first where they see India fit into their scheme of things, says T.S. Tirumurti, India's former Ambassador/Permanent Representative to the UN, New York. In an interview with *The Hindu*, Mr. Tirumurti spoke about the foreign policy challenges and opportunities India is facing in an uncertain world. Edited excerpts.

What are your thoughts from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to China to attend the SCO summit? Can we say India and China are now settling into a "new normal" despite persisting differences?

I think we are still quite far from reaching a new normal in our relations with China. Yes, it is true that both sides have signalled an intention to move forward. We have certainly taken some initial steps, which are important but probably more symbolic than substantive, to bring about a thaw like resuming airlinks, Kailash-Manasarovar yatra, liberalising the visa regime, etc. However, we still need to address larger issues such as trade imbalance, market access to Indian goods and services, de-escalation, etc.

Moreover, the Chinese have become active again in our neighbourhood. For example, their critical support to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor and their attempt to encircle India through our neighbours either physically or through groupings are all manifestations of this. In addition, we now have to deal with China both a neighbour as well as the No.2 power. For the first time, we have a superpower sharing a border with us. All this is changing the complexion of our relationship with China. The old template is not enough to deal with China in both these avatars. So, lot more needs to be done to restore trust before we can reach a new normal in our relations.

Some say Donald Trump's tariffs have nudged India and China closer. Do you agree?

While it is true that President Trump has disrupted the trajectory of India-U.S. relations, I doubt that the U.S. tariffs nudged us closer to China in any substantive way since it was becoming clear to both India and China that the four-year stand-off at the border was becoming counterproductive for both.

Consequently, we have stepped back a bit in October 2024 and worked on the first tranche of some symbolic steps.

However, what we have done in Tianjin is to show the U.S. that we have options, we can manage our differences with China and should not be taken for granted.

But how serious these options are is debatable given the more systemic problems we are currently facing with China as I mentioned earlier. That said, while countering China where necessary, we should also find common cause where possible. Neither country is doing enough to find synergy in regional, plurilateral or global issues.

That takes us to the U.S.-India ties, which now face turbulence – 50% tariffs, frictions on trade and repeated public criticisms from U.S, etc. How do you read these developments?

The U.S. has to decide first where they see India fit into their scheme of things. Secondly, they will have to make sure that our relations are not episodic by which I mean that every episode cannot subject our relations to trial by fire. You will also notice that the countries which have capitulated to the U.S. tariff threats and agreed to one-sided deals are the closest allies of the U.S. such as the European Union, Japan, South Korea, etc. They paid that price not for the trade deal but for keeping their alliance alive. Without it, they are rudderless in the so-called liberal world order. However, when the U.S. tried the same tactics with non-allies such as India, it is not working out well. That's because we are keen to preserve our relations with the U.S., but not at any cost. The U.S. cozying up to Pakistan after Operation Sindoor as well as levying punitive tariffs due to purchase of Russian oil have muddied the waters even more. We also need to see how the U.S.-China deal impacts our geopolitical interests.

The tensions in Indo-U.S. relations also bring India's ties with Russia under spotlight. With no end in sight for the Ukraine war, Indian position comes under great criticism from the U.S. How do you assess India's Ukraine policy?

I am convinced that we took the right decision in 2022 to abstain on the UN Security Council resolutions on Ukraine and call for a return to diplomacy where the legitimate interests of all parties are addressed. But what I have been consistently arguing for, including in my writings, is that India should play a more active role on the Ukraine front, at the very least as a tactical move to deflect criticism.

This does not mean mediation but to remain actively engaged, especially when we knew that the West has been upset with us. I had pointed out to the active role India played in the Korean war in UN Security Council between 1951 and 1952, in recognition of which we were made Chair of Neutral Nations Repatriation Committee after the armistice. Operation Sindoor shows us that if we seek greater engagement of our partners with our conflicts, we need to engage more with their conflicts.

How do you look at the shifts in the global order? What guiding principles should shape India's foreign policy in such uncertain times?

There are certainly serious disruptions to the global order. On the one hand, forces are tearing each other apart in conflicts and violating international law with impunity.

On the other hand, global challenges such as climate change, energy security, pandemics, AI and digital issues, cyber threats, etc. are forcing the same countries to cooperate and work together. That's the irony. At which point these two forces meet will determine the trajectory of the global order. Also, let us not get too nostalgic about a world order which we neither shaped nor did it really help us even if we learnt to use it to our advantage despite all odds.

We were never for status quo and always called for meaningful reform whether in UN Security Council or other 1945 architecture-linked institutions such as World Bank, IMF or WTO. Looking ahead, I can only say that as a rising power, we need to be proactive.

We have been second to none to contribute to the global commons such as vaccine maitri during COVID-19 or to combat climate change, etc. However, the world expects us to play a bigger role in conflicts and geopolitics. No more can we just put our head down, mind our own business and expect to become the third largest economy or Viksit Bharat by 2047. We need to get our geopolitics right.

HOME AND DRY

Host UAE gets the better of Oman, India advances to Super Four

AFP

The UAE beat Oman by 42 runs in an Asia Cup Group-A match on Monday to keep its Super Four hopes alive. The win also meant India progressed to the Super Four. **The scores:** UAE 172/5 in 20 overs (Alishan Sharafu 51, Muhammad Waseem 69) bt Oman 130 in 18.4 overs (Junaid Siddique 4/23). **Toss:** Oman. **PoM:** Sharafu.

TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT

My heart was in my mouth: SL's Asalanka on Hong Kong match

ANI

My heart was in my mouth [at the end]. I am disappointed about a few things. First three overs in the bowling. We lost a few quick wickets. Consistently, these things can't happen, even in the shorter formats. We are professionals and we have to do much better — SL captain Charith Asalanka on the narrow win over Hong Kong.

IN AND OUT

Afghanistan names Ahmadzai as replacement for injured Naveen

FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

Afghanistan seamer Naveen-ul-Haq, *in pic*, has been ruled out of the Asia Cup and Abdollah Ahmadzai has been named his replacement. Naveen was named in the squad despite missing the recent tri-series in the UAE. According to an ACB release, Naveen is still recovering from a shoulder injury and has not been declared fit.

ACTION-PACKED

Steelers register a narrow win over Giants; Bulls beat Titans

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Haryana Steelers clinched a 40-37 win against Gujarat Giants in the PKL in Jaipur on Monday. For Steelers, Jaideep Dahiya scored a High Five, while Shivam Patare recorded nine raid and three tackle points. Vinay, too, shone with eight raid points for the Haryana team. In another match, Bengaluru Bulls beat Telugu Titans 34-32.

Kuldeep continues to bamboozle Pakistan batters with his mastery

The left-arm wrist-spinner has been India's best bowler on view so far in the continental showpiece; the 30-year-old has made a big statement on his return to the national squad in the shortest format after a gap of more than a year

ASIA CUP

Vivek Krishnan
DUBAI

For the best wrist-spinners, creating an illusion of spin when there is precious little is an essential part of their beguiling craft.

They manage to do so by combining the nuances of drift, flight, dip with subtle changes in the point of release, luring batters into their trap hook, line and sinker. At his pomp, Shane Warne, who could spin the ball on most surfaces, was a master of deception.

In recent times, Kuldeep Yadav has belonged to this top breed. It is a different matter that the 30-year-old from Kanpur, for reasons often unfathomable to the observer, hasn't consistently found game time at the highest level. Whenever he is in India's blue shade or creamy whites, however, wickets are invariably snared through the wizardry of his left wrist.

The latest example came against Pakistan, which could only muster a meagre 127 for nine in its Asia Cup contest against India at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Sunday. While the sluggish surface may not have encouraged flamboyant stroke-making, the degree of turn was far from alarming.

Tormentor: Kuldeep has 18 wickets from eight matches against Pakistan in white-ball cricket. REUTERS

Yet, the Pakistani batters fumbled by retreating into a shell and allowed Kuldeep to wreak havoc. Although the Indian spinner was encountering the arch-rival for the first time in T20Is, he has 15 wickets in seven ODIs in this face-off.

For the second straight game in the Asia Cup, Kuldeep was India's most successful bowler.

Having scalped four wickets in a nine-wicket rout of the United Arab Emirates last Wednesday, he made Pakistan's batters look just as inept with three wickets in another frugal four-over spell.

If Hasan Nawaz miscued a sweep to Axar Patel running diagonally from slip, Mohammad Nawaz's failure to read a googly resulted in a leg-before dismissal. For Sahibzada Farhan, Kuldeep altered his line wider of off-stump and had the opener caught at long-on.

For Kuldeep to hit his straps straightaway in the continental event is a testament to his skill and maturity. He had been consigned to carrying drinks all through India's recent five-Test series against England.

In the shortest format, too, the fixture against the UAE was his first for India since the T20 World Cup final against South Africa in June, 2024.

"I know Kuldeep was with the Test team. He couldn't get an opportunity to play," skipper Suryakumar Yadav said in the post-match presser. "But he was working really hard on his fitness, on his bowling, and you can see it. Two games in a row, he has won it for us."

PCB demands match referee Pycroft's removal following handshake row

Vivek Krishnan
DUBAI

In light of India's refusal to exchange customary handshakes with Pakistan players before or after its seven-wicket win in the Asia Cup on Sunday in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has called for the removal of match referee Andy Pycroft from the remainder of the continental showpiece. After the game, the PCB had said in a statement that the "match referee had asked the captains not to shake hands at the time of the toss".

As soon as India captain Suryakumar Yadav smashed a six to wrap up victory, he and Shivam Dube began walking back in the direction of the dressing room. Neither they nor any other member of the Indian contingent acknowledged the Pakistan players and support staff. In response to India's snub, Pakistan skipper Salman Agha chose to not appear for the post-match presentation.

On Monday, PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi, who is also the president of the Asian Cricket Council that governs the tournament, said in a post on X: "The PCB has lodged a complaint with the ICC regarding violations by the Match Referee of the ICC Code of Conduct and the MCC Laws pertaining to the Spirit of Cricket. The PCB has demanded an immediate removal of the Match Referee from the Asia Cup."

Pycroft. FILE PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

Pycroft was the match referee for Monday's game between Sri Lanka and Hong Kong.

Pakistan coach Mike Hesson said: "We were ready to shake hands at the end of the game. We are disappointed that the opposition did not do that. We sort of went over there to shake hands and they had already gone into the changing room. It was a disappointing way for the match to finish."

Suryakumar had said on Sunday that the players were aligned with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the government in their stance. "We took a call. We came here just to play the game. That's the end. We gave a proper reply. I feel a few things in life are ahead of sportsperson's spirit also," he stated.

Amidst escalating tension, the BCCI said the Indian team had no obligation beyond playing the game. "The BCCI has full knowledge of whatever the team does. There is complete backing. The cricketers played the game in a professional way. Beyond that, there is no other compulsion. Nowhere does it say anything beyond that," a BCCI source said.

Today's match

Afghanistan vs. Bangladesh

Abu Dhabi, 8 p.m. IST

HEAD-TO-HEAD T20Is

Played: 12

Afghanistan	Bangladesh
7	5

LIVE ON SONY SPORTS TEN 5 (SD & HD) & LIV

Sri Lanka survives Hong Kong scare

Dhruva Prasad
DUBAI

The Dubai International Cricket Stadium had transformed from a cauldron to a sparsely filled colosseum in a matter of 24 hours, but there was no reversing Hong Kong's winless streak in Asia Cups across formats as Sri Lanka consigned it to a four-wicket defeat here on Monday.

An error-strewn performance, which saw Hong Kong spill six catches, was perfectly summed up in the 13th over of Sri Lanka's chase. Kusal Perera was dropped twice and Pathum Nissanka rubbed salt into Hong Kong's wounds by pulling medium-pacer Ayush Shukla for two successive fours.

When Nissanka was reprieved at deep midwicket in the next over, which brought three more fours, the Hong Kong fielders would have wanted to dig a hole and hide. A reverse-sweep for six from Perera off the first ball of the 15th over brought Sri Lanka's equation down to run-a-ball with 35 needed.

However, Sri Lanka was in the mood to give its fans a rousing finish as it lost four wickets for eight runs in a period of mindless batting, which started with Nissanka's run out.

Nissanka. AFP

With 22 runs needed off 16 balls, a front-foot no-ball from skipper Yasim Murtaza handed Sri Lanka the advantage again.

Wanindu Hasaranga took a full toll on the resultant free hit, smashing it for a six down the ground and easing Lankan nerves, before guiding his team home with back-to-back fours.

Earlier, Hong Kong rode on Anshuman Rath's 48 and Nizakat Khan's unbeaten 52 to reach 149 for four, but it wasn't enough to avoid its 14th consecutive defeat in the tournament.

The scores: Hong Kong 149/4 in 20 overs (Anshuman Rath 48, Nizakat Khan 52 n.o., Dushmantha Chameera 2/29) lost to Sri Lanka 153/6 in 18.5 overs (Pathum Nissanka 68, Yasim Murtaza 2/37). **Toss:** Sri Lanka; **PoM:** Nissanka.

Central completes formalities

DULEEP TROPHY FINAL

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Central Zone overcame a few hiccups to defeat South Zone by six wickets on the final day of their Duleep Trophy summit clash here on Monday.

Needing 65 runs to lay claim to the title, Central lost four wickets but managed to reach the target in the morning session. This was Central's first Duleep Trophy triumph since the Piyush Chawla-led side took top honours in the 2014-15 edition.

Having posted a massive 511 in the first essay, Central stayed in the driver's seat for a majority of the match. South will rue an abysmal batting performance on the first day, when it was bowled out for 149 on a batting-friendly pitch.

Batting woes

South coach and former India pacer L. Balaji admitted that the batters should have displayed more caution in the first innings. "In hindsight, you can say that some of the shots were a bit unnecessary. But this is a young batting unit," said Balaji, referring to R. Smaran and Andre Siddarth. "They will definitely learn from this."

Madhya Pradesh all-rounder Saransh Jain was declared the Player-of-the-Series. He finished as the highest wicket-taker of the tournament (16 wickets), and also contributed with two crucial fifties with the bat. The 32-year-old is happy to have started the domestic season with a good showing. "It is a very important series for me, because it helps prepare for all the upcoming tournaments. It all starts with the Duleep Trophy. It is very important for me to carry this momentum forward," Saransh said.

Performances on this stage is sure to be noticed by the national selectors.

"This is an important tournament, so all the selectors are here. My aim is to give my best. The rest is up to the selectors," Saransh said.

The scores:
South Zone 149 & 426 lost to Central Zone 511 & 66/4 in 20.3 overs. **PoM:** Yash Rathod; **PoS:** Saransh Jain.

Mission accomplished: The victorious Central Zone squad presents a happy picture. K. MURALI KUMAR

Super show: Vaishali notched up six wins in her triumphant campaign. FIDE

Vaishali retains Grand Swiss title, qualifies for Candidates

CHESS

P.K. Ajith Kumar

She has done it again.

R. Vaishali is the champion once again at the FIDE Grand Swiss. In one of the most prestigious events in the chess calendar, the 24-year-old from Chennai showed her class.

She was a surprise winner in the women's section of the last edition of the tournament on the Isle of Man in 2023. This time around, in the Uzbek city of Samarkand, she retained her title, and thus booked a ticket for next year's Candidates tournament, the qualifying event for the World championship.

She has ensured that at least three of those eight female Candidates would be Indian. That is quite a feat. (Koneru Humpy and Divya Deshmukh are the others).

In the last Grand Swiss, the male champion was also from Indian - Vidit Gujrathi -- but this time around, there was disappointment for the country. The two Candidates slots have been won by Anish Giri and Matthias Bluebaum, by finishing as the champion and runner-up in the open section. Nihal Sarin was in a good position to take one of those spots for much of the tournament, but he faltered towards the end.

But Vaishali's brilliant effort should bring joy to Indian chess, which is continuing to rise and rise. And it is another great boost to the women's game, coming as it does less than two months after Divya's World Cup triumph.

Divya rightly chose to compete in the open section of the Grand Swiss - as she had already qualified for the Candidates - and played above her strength. She and Vaishali should inspire the Indian girls.

Final standings (top 10): Open: 1. Anish Giri (Ned, 8 points), 2. Matthias Bluebaum (Ger, 7.5), 3. Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 7.5), 4. Vincent Keymer (Ger, 7.5), 5. Abhimanyu Mishra (USA, 7), 6. Arjun Erigaisi (7), 7. Andy Woodward (USA, 7), 8. Hans Niemann (USA, 7), 9. Nihal Sarin (7), 10. Nodirbek Abdusattarov (Uzb, 7).

Women: 1. R. Vaishali (8 points), 2. Katernya Lagono (8), 3. Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kaz, 7.5), 4. Tan Zhongyi (Chn, 7.5), 5. Yuxin Song (Chn, 7.5), 6. Ulviyya Fataliyeva (Aze, 7), 7. Irina Krush (USA, 7), 8. Mariya Muzychuk (Ukr, 7), 9. Guo Qi (Chn, 6.5), 10. Olga Girya (Rus, 6.5).

INBRIEF

Krish Gupta finishes on top in the fourth round

Krish Gupta led a double podium for Rayo Racing as he topped the Finals in the senior category in the fourth round of the MECO-FMSCI National Karting Championship Rotax Max in Bengaluru on Sunday. Rivaan Dev Preetham (MSPORT) dominated the Mini Max category, where he swept to P1 in all the sessions that included two heats, the pre-final and the finals to consolidate his top position on the leaderboard. He leads Yatharth Gaur (Leapfrog Racing) by 32 points after four rounds.

Mohun Bagan takes on Turkmenistan's Ahal in ACL 2

Mohun Bagan Super Giant starts its campaign at the Asian stage by taking on Turkmenistan's Ahal FK in the opening Group-C league match of the AFC Champions League 2 at home in the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata on Tuesday. This will be the second successive year that Bagan will be playing the group league stage of the second-tier club competition in Asia after having successfully defended the League Shield in the latest edition of the ISL earlier this year. While most of the clubs of the Indian top league lie in hibernation as the fate of ISL remains uncertain, Bagan has trained its energy in proving its merit at the continental level. Bagan's other two opponents are Sepahan SC of Iran and Al-Hussein SC of Jordan in the league stage, which will see its engagements till the final week of December.

– **Amitabha Das Sharma**

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SCHEDULE

Athletic Club vs Arsenal; PSV Eindhoven vs Union St.-Gilloise *(both matches at 10.15 p.m. IST, Tuesday).*
Benfica vs FK Qarabag; Juventus vs Borussia Dortmund; Real Madrid vs Marseille; Tottenham Hotspur vs Villarreal *(all matches at 12.30 a.m. IST, Wednesday).*

LIVE TELECAST

World Athletics Championships: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 4 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 8 p.m.
Men's T20 Asia Cup: Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 8 p.m.
Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 10.15 p.m.; Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 5 & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday).

Duplantis soars into immortality

Swedish phenom vaults to new world record of 6.30m; Beamish pips El Bakkali by narrowest of margins; Simbu wins men's marathon

ATHLETICS

Agencies
TOKYO

Mondo Duplantis lit up the third night of the Tokyo world championships when he broke the pole vault world record for the 14th time with a jump of 6.30 metres after securing a third straight World title on Monday.

The gold was already in the bag for the Swede and all the other events finished when he had the bar raised a centimetre higher than the record height of 6.29m he managed in Budapest last month.

He failed by the narrowest of margins at his first two attempts but, roared on by a packed house at the National Stadium, slid over on the third with the bar giving a slight wobble before settling.

Greek Emmanouil Karalis won silver as the only one apart from Duplantis to get over at 6.00m, while Australian Kurtis Marschall jumped 5.95m to win a second world bronze medal.

Earlier, New Zealand's Geordie Beamish claimed a stunning world gold in the 3,000m steeplechase when he dipped to defeat a shocked Soufiane El Bakkali on the line and deny the Moroccan a fifth successive global title. Beamish snatched it in eight minutes 33.88 seconds, beating the champion by seven hundredths of a second.

Switzerland's Ditaji Kambundji stunned the field to win the women's 100m hurdles in 12.24s.

Delight for Rogers

Canada's Olympic champion Camryn Rogers became a double hammer world champion in devastating fashion as she became the second-longest thrower in history with a winning effort of 80.51m.

In the morning, Tanzania's Alphonce Felix Simbu won the marathon by the smallest of margins, edging out German Amanal Petros.

The photo finish showed the 42.195km race was decided by three hundredths of a second as Simbu surged past the diving Petros at the line. Both were timed at two hours, 9 minutes and 48 seconds while Italian Illias Aouani took bronze in 2:09.53.

Indian long jumper Murali Sreeshankar failed to qualify for the finals with a 14th place finish in his qualification group on Monday. He could only produce a best jump of 7.78m in his three attempts to end 25th overall out of 37 competitors.

In women's 3000m steeplechase, National record holder Parul Chaudhary and Ankita Dhyani finished ninth and 11th respectively in their respective heats. In men's 110m hurdles, Tejas Shirse finished sixth in his eight-man heat and failed to qualify for the semifinals.

Duplantis' Pole Vault World Record Progression

The peerless 25-year-old has improved on the world mark centimetre-by-centimetre since he first set the world record in February 2020

Height	When and Where	Date
6.17m	Torun, Poland	February 8, 2020
6.18	Glasgow, UK	February 15, 2020
6.19	Belgrade, Serbia	March 7, 2022
6.20	Belgrade, Serbia (World Indoors)	March 20, 2022
6.21	Eugene, USA (World Champs)	July 24, 2022
6.22	Clermont-Ferrand, France	February 25, 2023
6.23	Eugene, USA	September 17, 2023
6.24	Xiamen Diamond League	April 20, 2024
6.25	Paris Olympics	August 5, 2024
6.26	Chorzow Diamond League	August 25, 2024
6.27	Clermont-Ferrand, France	February 28, 2025
6.28	Stockholm, Sweden	June 15, 2025
6.29	Budapest, Hungary (Gyulai Istvan Memorial)	August 12, 2025
6.30	Tokyo (World Champs)	September 15, 2025

Things would have been different had we taken catches: Harleen

CRICKET

P.K. Ajith Kumar
NEW CHANDIGARH

Plenty to ponder: India captain Harmanpreet, Radha and Smriti discuss tactics during the opening one-dayer. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Until she decided to dance down the track against Megan Schutt, it had nearly been a perfect day for Harleen Deol.

She had begun cautiously, shifted gears at the right time with some fine shots, had posted her fourth ODI fifty, and was looking good for more, in the opening ODI against Australia on Sunday. She was playing in her hometown, at the new PCA Stadium.

Skipper Alyssa Healy's smart piece of stumping, standing up to the seasoned seamer Schutt, ended Harleen's innings. The Indian innings would eventually fall short by quite a few runs. The magnificent Australians romped home with plenty of wickets and balls to spare.

Harleen believes India had a decent total (281 for seven). "We dropped a few catches here and there, and things would have been different if he had taken those catches," she said. "Under the lights catching may be a bit more challenging, but obviously we need to make sure that we raise our standards. But nevertheless there are two more matches, so we are going to focus on that."

Harleen said it was a nice track to bat on. "But when the ball got a little older, it was like holding up a little bit," she said. "As for my innings, I just wanted to take a little bit more time to understand the wicket and to understand which bowler was bowling what, so that I could change my plans according to my strength."

The second ODI will be played on Wednesday.

A lot at stake for India-A

Sahil Mathur
LUCKNOW

Two four-day matches between India-A and Australia-A, starting on Tuesday here, promise to be more than just second-string contests – they could shape the Test futures of players on both sides.

India has potential batting vacancies with home series against West Indies and South Africa later this year, while Australia is already casting an eye on its next tour of India in 2027. For some, like Shreyas Iyer and Devdutt Padikkal, the path back to the senior side could open quickly; for others, like Sam Konstas and Todd Murphy, it's about preparing for the long haul.

Arya, Digvijay excel

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Spinner Paras Gurbax Arya (five for 47) starred for KSCA XI against Goa CA in the KSCA-Dr. (Capt.) K. Thimmappiah Memorial tournament at Alur (3) here on Monday.

Arya's spell helped KSCA XI dismiss Goa CA for 165. In reply, KSCA President's XI stuttered to 58 for five.

At Kini Sports Arena, Digvijay Patil (106) came good for Maharashtra CA against Vidarbha CA. Prithvi Shaw scored 40 for Maharashtra CA.

The scores:

At Bengaluru: Goa CA 165 in 62.4 overs (Lalit Yadav 41, Paras Gurbax Arya 5/47) vs. KSCA President's XI 58/5 in 27 overs. KSCA XI 270 in 80.5 overs (Rohan Patil 53, Abhinav Manohar 68, Sridam Paul 4/38) vs.Tripura CA 9 for no loss in 2 overs.

Madhya Pradesh CA 269/7 in 89 overs (Harsh Gawli 50, Harshit Yadav 53, Arshad Khan 54 n.o.) vs. Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh.

Maharashtra CA 319/6 in 82 overs (Prithvi Shaw 40, Digvijay Patil 106, Saurabh Nawale 56) vs. Vidarbha CA.

KSCA Secretary's XI 267/9 in 90 overs (Lochan Gowda 48, Dheeraj Gowda 45, Abhishek Ahlawat 49 n.o.) vs. Mumbai CA.

Assam CA 153 in 50.5 overs (Akash Sengupta 47) vs. Gujarat CA 103/5 in 31 overs.

At Mysuru: KSCA Colts 184 in 47.3 overs (Monish Reddy 59 n.o., Rasikh Dar 4/35) vs.Baroda CA 129/6 in 40 overs (Vishnu Solanki 44 n.o., Shikhar Shetty 4/38).

Andhra CA 87 in 23.2 overs (Divesh Sharma 4/24, Naveen Kanwar 4/18) vs. Himachal Pradesh CA 232/4 in 61 overs (Siddhant Purohit 50, Ekant Sen 76 n.o.).

Barcelona dismantles Valencia; Modric off the mark for Milan

EURO LEAGUES

Agenices
MADRID

In pursuit: Barca moved within two points of Real Madrid. REUTERS

Raphinha, Robert Lewandowski and Fermin Lopez scored two goals each as Barcelona routed Valencia 6-0 in the Spanish league. The match was played at the team's training facility because Barcelona doesn't have the proper permits to reopen the renovated Camp Nou stadium.

Barcelona moved within two points of early league leader Real Madrid.

In the Serie A, Luka Modric scored his first goal for AC Milan to secure a 1-0 home win over Bologna, a hard-fought result tempered by an injury to goalkeeper Mike Maignan and a red card for coach Massimiliano Allegri.

Manchester United boss Ruben Amorim was defiant in the face of growing criticism after his side was dismantled 0-3 by Manchester City in a Premier League derby at the Etihad Stadium. City was led by Erling Haaland, who struck twice, and Phil Foden.

"I'm not going to change. When I want to change my philosophy, I will change. If not, you'll have to change the men."

Top results: LaLiga: Celta Vigo 1 (Iglesias 90+2-pen) drew with Girona 1 (Vanat 12); Levante 2 (Romero 2, Etta Eyong 10) drew with Real Betis 2 (Hernandez 45+2, Fornals 81); Osasuna 2 (Garcia 15, Benito 77) bt Rayo Vallecano 0.

Barcelona 6 (Lopez 29, 56, Raphinha 53, 66, Lewandowski 76, 86) bt Valencia 0.

Serie A: AC Milan 1 (Modric 61) bt Bologna 0; Sassuolo 1 (Fadera 70) bt Lazio 0.

Sujeet, Vicky keep medal hopes alive

Sports Bureau

Sujeet Kalkal (65kg) and Vicky (97kg) entered their respective repechage bouts at the World wrestling championships in Zagreb on Monday. Sujeet got past Cavit Acar 15-5 and Kwang Kim 9-2 but suffered a 5-6 defeat to Olympic silver medallist Rahman Amouzadkhalili in the quarterfinal. In his first bout, Vicky was trailing 9-11 when Magomedkhan Magomedov gave up due to an injury. He beat Aliaksandr Hushtyn 11-1 before losing to Amirali Azarpira 0-10 in the quarterfinals. Women wrestlers Nishu (55kg) and Sarika (59kg) bowed out after losing to Sowaka Uchida and Anastasiia Sidelnikova 4-8 and 0-12 respectively in the round of 16.

Corte Madera obliges in the feature event

HYDERABAD: Trainer L. D' Silva's colt Corte Madera, ridden by Afroz Khan, won the S. Malakonda Reddy Memorial Cup, the main event of Monday's (Sept. 15) races. The winner is owned by Mr. M. Ramakrishna Reddy & Ms. Meka Ahalya.

1. ASIFABAD PLATE (1,200M): DALI'S CHAMPION (Kuldeep Singh Sr.) 1, Deccan Ranger (Ashad Asbar) 2, Fortune Art (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Muaser (P. Ajeeth K) 4. 1-1/4, 2 and 2. 1m, 16.06s. ₹19 (w), 25, 15 and 10 (p). SHP: 30, THP: 47, SHW: 35 and 20, FP: 110, Q: 55, Tanala: 112. Favourite: Dali's Champion. Owner: Mr. Mamidi Bhudevi Dilip Kumar. Trainer: S. Sreekant.

2. SILVER JET PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200M): DIABLO (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Ragnarök (Mukesh K) 2, Darling's Boy (Kuldeep Jr.) 3 and Kalki (Abhay Singh) 4. Not run: Calistoga. 2-1/4, 1/2 and 5-1/4. 1m, 13.15s. ₹30 (w), 18, 13 and 13 (p). SHP: 32, THP: 38, SHW: 15 and 20, FP: 88, Q: 47, Tanala: 112. Favourite: Diablo. Owners: M/s. Ashok Ranpise, Seshadri Reddy Pochana, Teegala Sumant Reddy, Teegala Vijender Reddy, Satish Kumar Reddy Poondla, Giri Prathamesh Mahadev, Bollineni Krishnaiah & Teja Gollapudi. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

3. NELSTON PLATE (1,400M): MY CHALLENGE (G. Naresh) 1, Lego (Ashad Asbar) 2, Mountain Touch (Ajay K) 3 and Opera Queen (B. Nikhil) 4. 4-1/2, 2 and Neck. 1m, 27.91s. ₹26 (w), 11, 13 and 12 (p). SHP: 60, THP: 46, SHW: 21 and 39, FP: 168, Q: 107, Tanala: 263. Favourite: Mountain Touch. Owners: M/s. Mahesh Yadav & Laxman Singh Parmar. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

4. S. MALAKONDA REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (1,800M): CORTE MADERA (Afroz Khan) 1, Dapper Look (Gaurav) 2, Black Dust (P. Sai K) 3 and Krystallos (Ashad Asbar) 4. 6-3/4, 2-1/2 and 5-1/2. 1m, 53.00s. ₹18 (w), 13, 10 and 13 (p). SHP: 30, THP: 34, SHW: 10 and 20, FP: 53, Q: 28, Tanala: 73. Favourite: Corte Madera. Owners: Mr. M. Ramakrishna Reddy & Ms. Meka Ahalya. Trainer: L.D' Silva.

5. BHADRACHALAM CUP (1,200M): CLARA (Imran Chisty) 1, Calabasas (Mukesh K) 2, Knight Crusader (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Rolls Royce (Abhay Singh) 4. Neck, 1-1/4 and 4-1/2. 1m, 14.26s. ₹16 (w), 10, 13 and 32 (p). SHP: 35, THP: 62, SHW: 18 and 25, FP: 45, Q: 29, Tanala: 215. Favourite: Clara. Owner: Mr. N.V. Rohin Kumar. Trainer: S. Sreekant.

6. SILVER JET PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200M): ESPIONAGE (Kuldeep Singh Sr.) 1, She Can (Neeraj) 2, Brooklyn Beauty (B. Nikhil) 3 and Star Forever (Ajay K) 4. 3-1/4, 1-1/4 and 1/2. 1m, 13.31s. ₹28 (w), 13, 17 and 42 (p). SHP: 43, THP: 286, SHW: 21 and 13, FP: 86, Q: 48, Tanala: 7,239. Favourite: Espionage. Owners: M/s. Prakash Babu, P. Ranga Raju, Donald Anthony Netto & Tripuranenivenkata Aditya Chowdary. Trainer: D. Netto.

Jackpot: 70%: 1,627 (333 tkts.) & 30%: 102 (2,258 tkts.).
Mini Jackpot : 836 (67 tkts.).
Treble : (i) 132 (159 tkts.), (ii) 353 (102 tkts.).

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Finance Department
No. 3381-F (H) dated: 15.09.2025
Subject: Notice seeking application for two (2) posts of Administrative Member in West Bengal Administrative Tribunal

Vacancy Circular in Form-I inviting application from qualified persons in the prescribed format in Annexure I along with duly filled in Annexure II & III certified by the competent authority to fill up the post of 02 (two) posts of Administrative Member in the West Bengal Administrative Tribunal has been published in the website of this Department: https://finance.wb.gov.in

Details of selection procedure, qualification, term of office and status of service along with format of application may be accessed from the Departmental website.The duly filled in application in the prescribed format, complete in all respect, should be sent to the following address:-

Additional Chief Secretary,
Finance Department, Government of West Bengal,
Nabanna (12th Floor), 325, Sarat Chatterjee Road,
Howrah-711 102 .

The date of publication of the Advertisement is **16th September, 2025.** The last date of receipt of application is **15th October, 2025 up to 5.00 p.m.** Applications received after the scheduled date/ time will not be considered. Applicants are requested to super-scribe on the envelope containing the application as **"Application for the post of Administrative Member, West Bengal Administrative Tribunal."**

Sd/-
(Prabhat Kumar Mishra)
Additional Chief Secretary

ICA- N 453(5)/2025

HOKMB-TVM/389/2025-C1 (Devp) 1/57315/2025
KERALA MARITIME BOARD
(A statutory Board of Govt. of Kerala)
HO TC XXII/1666 (4&5), 1st Floor,
Mulamoottil Building, Pipinmoodu,
Sasthamangalam, Pin: 695010.
TENDER NOTICE
RFP for Development of Riverside Recreation, and Entertainment Zone, Thalangara, Kasaragod
The Kerala Maritime Board (KMB) invites a tender for the **Development of Riverside Recreation, and Entertainment Zone, Thalangara, Kasaragod** [Tender ID: **2025_KMB_796256_1**] in Public Private Partnership (**PPP**) mode. The detailed tender document can be downloaded from Government of Kerala's e-procurement portal (**www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**).
Proposals must be submitted on or before **27.10.2025, 06:55 PM**. For further information contact us on **0471-2910040 / 9544410029** or email **kmb.kerala@gmail.com**
For updates visit: **www.kmb.kerala.gov.in**
D3/677/2025/I&PRD

KMML Spreading Splendour
The Kerala Minerals & Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam,-691583
Phone : +91-476-2651215 to 217, E-mail : md@kmml.com, URL: www.kmml.com
TENDER NOTICE
For more details, please visit E- Tendering Portal https://etenders.kerala.gov.in.or www.kmml.com

No	Tender ID	Items
1.	2025_KMML_796465_1	For the supply of 6,000 Nos of jumbo Bags Polypropylene product sillimanite -1,000 kg capacity

Chavara. 15.09.2025 **Sd/ Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd**

OFFICE OF THE PROGRAM MANAGER
कार्यालय कार्यक्रम प्रबंधक
PROJECT IMPLIMENTATION UNIT-PWD
Uttarakhand Disaster Preparedness and Resilience Project (U-PREPARE)
5TH Floor, USDMA Building, 36, IT Park, Sahastradhana Road, Dehradun-Uttarakhand
E-mail: piupwd@ukdisasterrecovery.in

Ref. No: 602/BR/17(1)/U-PREPARE/2025 Date: 12/09/2025
NOTICE FOR INVITING BIDS
The Government of Uttarakhand with assistance from Govt. of India has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the U-PREPARE Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for following package of work. Hence bids are invited for the following package. The complete set of bid documents with BOQ in English, may by downloaded from the website https://uktenders.gov.in, which will be available on the website from 20/09/2025. All other information regarding the Bid shall also be available 20/09/2025 on above website.

S. No.	Package No.	District	Name of Package	Method of Procurement for Bid
1	17(1)/BR/RFB-IR/ UPREPARE/2025	Uttarakashi	Construction of 120M Span Suspension Bridge over Pinanggad Uttarkashi.	RFB-Item Rate Single stage Two bid system

Notes:-
1. The corrigendum/addendum for the above package will be uploaded on website **www.uktenders.gov.in**
2. Email id **piupwd@ukdisasterrecovery.in** may be contacted for any information related to the bids or bidders may visit office during working hours for any clarification.
3. The tenders may be found under the organization name:- PM (Project Implementation Unit-PWD) U-PREPARE - World Bank on the website www.uktenders.gov.in.

Program Manager,
PIU-PWD,
U-PREPARE

IRCTC
Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd.
(A Government of India Enterprise-Navratna)
CIN:L74899DL1999GOI101707
Notice Inviting Open E-Tender
IRCTC-SOUTH CENTRAL ZONE invites the following Open E-Tenders: -

Units	Particulars	Last Date of Submission
Jan Ahaar	Open e-tender cum e-auction for provision of catering services for a period of **Five years** through **Jan Ahaar** at **Guntakal Railway Station**.	06.10.2025 up to 15:00 hrs.
Refreshment Rooms	Open e-tender cum e-auction for provision of catering services for a period of **Five years** through **Refreshment Rooms** at **Kazipet, Kurnool Town, Kadapa, Eluru** and **Ongole Railway Stations**.	06.10.2025 up to 15:00 hrs.
Fast Food Units	Open e-tender cum e-auction for setting up, operation and management of **Fast-Food units at Brajrajnagar, Machilipatnam, Gudivada, Dongargarh, Balaghat & Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Itwari Railway Stations** for a period of **Five years**.	06.10.2025 up to 15:00 hrs.

Tender document downloading & participation can be done on Website:-
< www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC >
In case of any corrigendum issued on the above advertisement, it will be published only on website **www.irctc.com** and **ww.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC**.
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